

Editorial

In this issue we continue to report on the series of studies by Matthew Cock on the skipper butterflies of Trinidad and on the freshwater macroinvertebrates in the Caribbean islands by David Bass. Matthew Cock's, so far, 16 part series concentrates on the Hesperinae, Group J, *Vettius-Naevolus*. In this group, he gives the taxonomy, history and biology of the genera *Vettius*, *Turesis*, *Eutyche*, *Onophas* and *Naevolus*. He also writes on the two species of *Pseudautomeris* which occur in Trinidad and notes that *P. lata* is a new record for Trinidad.

David Bass reports on the freshwater macroinvertebrates of the Cayman Islands where he collected 72 species, many being reported for the first time for the islands.

Jo-Anne Sewlal also reports on her preliminary study on the collection of spiders from Grenada where she noted 22 species were present, representing ten families.

There are seven Nature Notes in this issue of the Journal: three are by Stevland Charles on reptiles, one by G. White and S. Ali on the status of *Lithobates palmipes* in south-eastern Trinidad where they found it not rare as previously noted by other authors. Jo-Anne Sewlal added two families of spiders known to exist on Trinidad. Two historical notes complete the series of Nature Notes, one by John and Margaret Cooper on *Pseudosphinx tetrio*, while Reginald Potter contributes a note on a toad eating a chicken, the report being extracted from his grandfather's diary of 1889.

Martyn Kenefick gives the 2008 report from the Trinidad and Tobago Rare Birds Committee, while Ian

Lambie and Vishnu Debie report on the population of Oilbirds which were counted at the Dunstan Cave, Asa Wright Nature Centre during the annual Christmas bird counts for the period 1969 to 2008.

Jerry Dave Hardy first visited Tobago in the early 1960s and became enchanted with the island and its fauna. C. K. Starr and J. N. Sewlal tell the story of this man and his work on the island.

There are four book reviews in this issue. Two books by Julian Kenny, *The Biological Diversity of Trinidad and Tobago* and *Orchids of Trinidad and Tobago*, are reviewed by Julian Duncan while Christopher Starr reviews Richard French's book on *A Naturalists' Year*. A review of the *Catalogue of the Hostplants of the Neotropical Butterflies* by Beccaloni *et al.* is reviewed by Matthew Cock.

Two young Trinidadian biologists, Floyd Lucas and Karl Ramjohn, died in a tragic boating accident in January, 2009 while carrying out a marine biological survey in the south coast of Trinidad and Kevin Mahabir pays tribute to them in a short article.

On Editorial matters, I welcome Graham White as Assistant Editor of the Journal. Since we do not provide reprints to authors, we have instead provided pdfs of the articles to each author and we will continue to do so in the future.

In the first paragraph of the Editorial of the 2008 issue of the Journal, reference was made to the year 2008 when in fact the year should have been given as 2007. I apologise for the oversight.

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Cover Photograph

Lithobates palmipes (Spix), previously named *Rana palmipes*, is rarely seen in Trinidad. This specimen was photographed by Saiyaad Ali at a pond near Austin South Road, west of Chatham, on 28 July, 2007.

(See Nature Note on Page 44)