

Editorial

One of the major conservation issues in Trinidad and Tobago in 2015 was the continuation of a moratorium on hunting. In our Guest Editorial this year, our Club President, Kris Sookdeo, presents our position and makes very practical recommendations which were shared with the responsible policy makers.

On 22 December, 2014 we in the Club lost one of our most influential members, Dr. Victor Quesnel. In 1953 he returned from studies abroad and soon re-started the then Trinidad Field Naturalists' Club, which had been moribund for many years. He also re-started the Living World Journal and served on the editorial committee for many years. While we cannot fully express our gratitude to Victor in the Journal, we remember his invaluable contribution in the section Our Notable Naturalists.

In addition to the above, this 2015 Living World contains six research papers, twelve Nature Notes, one Report, and a Book Review. The research papers this year cover a wide range of taxa. Matthew Cock continues his regular installments in describing the biology of the skipper butterflies. Richard Baker and E. Hancock provide an account of some of our earlier insect collectors. The bird assemblages of the Matura Environmentally Sensitive Area are described by Graham White, Kevin Mahabir, Mike Oatham and Courtenay Rooks. Renoir Auguste, Stevland Charles and John Murphy provide an updated checklist of the Amphibians and Reptiles of the Aripo Savannas Scientific Reserve. Ryan Mohammed, Karl Phillips, Kerresha Khan and Avi Bhagan update the distribution of freshwater fish in Tobago. Finally, the mammals are represented by a review of the management

of Ocelots at the Emperor Valley Zoo by Kerresha Khan and Ryan Mohammed.

The official checklist of the birds of Trinidad and Tobago was increased by an unprecedented seven species in 2014. The records are described in the report of the Bird Status and Distribution Committee by Martyn Kenefick.

Our Nature Notes section continues to record valuable observations. We start with three observations which highlight the role of the giant fishing spider, *A. bogotensis* as a generalist predator preying on a fish, a frog and a crab. The latter observation provided us with our cover. Other Nature Notes include the nesting habit of a termite on St. Eustatius, the second record of a rare wasp for Trinidad and an update on the distribution of two fish in southern Trinidad. From Tobago, one note describes a possible hybrid heron and shows the lengths that birdwatchers would go to identify a species correctly. We also have an account of the distribution of caiman in Tobago. We have two notes on butterflies, one which is a new species for Trinidad and Tobago and another which has not been recorded on mainland Trinidad since 1904. The final nature note demonstrates the recent expansion of the frog *Scarthyla vigilans* to Nariva Swamp.

We have not had book reviews in recent years. This year however we present a review on Dan Eatherley's book in which he chronicles the life of Raymond Ditmars and his hunt for the bushmaster, which brings him in contact with our Club's founders and eventually to Trinidad.

GW, July 2015

Cover Photograph

This photo of a female giant fishing spider, *Ancylometes bogotensis* feeding on the crab *Dilocarcinus dentatus* was taken at Aripo Savanna by Mike Rutherford. While *A. bogotensis* is known to feed on fish and amphibians, records of feeding on a crustacean are rare or unknown (See Nature Note on Page 65).