

the report on our specimen was prepared, and, consequently, have been listed before it in the report⁽²⁾.

This species is new to Trinidad and according to Fraser⁽²⁾ our discovery extends its known range by about 900 miles.

T. F. TWIST,
D. M. TWIST.

REFERENCES

- (1) Rankin, J. J. Nature 172: 873, 1953
(2) Fraser, F. C. Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist., Ser. 12, Vol. 8: 624, 1955.

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Is the Yapok or Water Opossum found in Trinidad?

The water opossum, *Chironectes*, has never been reported from Trinidad although there are records from South America. I am certain that it is found here, as certain as any one can be from looking at a photograph which clearly showed an opossum with the characteristic markings on the back and the webbed hind feet of a yapok. In 1955 a hunter shot this animal in the swamps of Guayaguayare in south-eastern Trinidad. It was photographed before it was eaten because it looked different from other "manicous".

I have asked professional hunters in various parts of Trinidad, and particularly in this southern area, to save any opossums with an overall length of up to thirty inches, having webbed hind feet and black and grey dorsal markings which may form bands across the back, and to notify me immediately when such an animal has been shot.

ARTHUR M. GREENHALL,
Curator, R.V.I. Museum.

The Club's Emblem

The emblem of the Trinidad Field Naturalists' Club is the Inca Beetle. This much is recorded in the Journal of October 1892, but the reasons for the choice were not recorded and may forever remain lost to posterity, since all the original members have died. The beetle itself was unknown to the island's entomologists whom we consulted and eventually, in order to have a new drawing made, a specimen was obtained on loan from the Commonwealth Institute of Entomology. The new drawing was made by Mr. J. S. Kenny.—Ed.

TRINIDAD FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1954

The Trinidad Field Naturalists' Club was reorganized at the beginning of 1954 after a lapse of a year or two and has had, on the whole, a successful year with a full schedule of activities. Nine meetings were held; there were lectures at five of them and discussions of various topics at the others.

The lectures and lecturers were as follows:

- Certain Aspects of Natural History by—Dr. G. A. C. Herklots.
The Snakes of Trinidad by—Mr. L. Wehekind.

Bats, with special Reference to Vampires by—Mr. A. M. Greenhall.
Botanical Collecting by—Prof. R. E. D. Baker.

Mosquitoes, their Biology and Relation to Disease by—Dr. T. H. G. Aitken.

Among the topics discussed were: River-fish Populations, Pollution of Rivers, The Caging of Local Birds and The Proposal to Exterminate Trinidad's Monkey Population. As a result of these discussions, representations were made to Government.

Seven excursions were held, the places visited being the Caroni Swamp, the Quare Dam, the Aripo Savanna, the Heights of Guanapo, La Pastora, the Maracas Valley, and the Caura Dam. Although something of interest was seen on every occasion, these ventures, in my opinion, suffered from the lack of some definite objective, a circumstance that might be profitably remedied in the coming year.

On Dr. Herklots's invitation the club visited I.C.T.A. in August.

Attendances at meetings have been good, with thirty or more persons present as a rule; attendances at excursions have been less good, the average number of persons attending being about fifteen.

Forty-eight new members were elected during the year, bringing the total number of members (including honorary and corresponding members) up to about one hundred and forty at the year's end. The number is only approximate because on the resumption of activities at the start of the year some of the persons whose names were on the membership list could not be located. Two members went abroad to further their studies.

The death of Mme E. Jourdain in December is regretfully recorded. During the short time she was with us she proved herself to be a keenly-interested member.

At a meeting on 14th May, a small committee was appointed to look into the possibility of publishing a journal. The committee concluded that the decision to publish should be taken only after it had been shown that the quantity and quality of the papers proposed for publication justified this step. The achievement of this goal, which will require the co-operation of many members, is something to work for in the year ahead.

In conclusion I should like to thank the College Authorities for the loan of the library and the Press for their co-operation.

VICTOR C. QUESNEL,
Hon. Secretary.

27th January, 1955.

TRINIDAD FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1955

The club's second year of renewed activity has been, perhaps, even more successful than the previous year; a full schedule of meetings, film shows and excursions has been maintained.