

THE MAY EXPEDITION TO MONOS

INTRODUCTION

On the weekend of May 16-18, 1964, the Trinidad Field Naturalists' Club visited the island of Monos, camping on the shore of Grand Fond Bay. The weather was fine and dry during the whole of the visit, as it had been for some weeks previously. The party consisted of 19 members, namely G.E.L. Laforest, R.P. French, I. Lambie, Miss E. Molineaux, J. L. Chapman, Mrs M. French, R.L. Manuel, W.D. Chalmers, M. Gane, P. Bacon, R. de Gale, R Shurland, C.T. Collins, J. Boos, N. Andalcio, Miss C. Storrs-Fox, Miss T. Leekam. Miss C. Leekarn, and Miss J. Chun.

Apart from generally exploring the area of Grand Fond Bay and the ridges to the North-east and South-west, special studies were made of the vegetation, the insects and the bird-life of the area. Specimens of plants, insects, bats and reptiles were collected and subsequently identified. Two of the orchids were particularly interesting, since they have been found in Trinidad only near Port-of-Spain and in recent times. One of the bats collected had only been identified twice before in Trinidad. Amongst the birds particularly interesting were a rail very rarely recorded in Trinidad before and a nightjar whose existence in Trinidad has been seriously questioned.

The expedition was a great success according to those who took part, and our thanks are due again to the Trinidad and Tobago Coastguard for facilitating our transport arrangements. It was decided forthwith to make plans for a second trip to Monos during the wet season, so as to get a more complete picture of the area's natural history.