

THE AUGUST EXPEDITION

INTRODUCTION

A second visit to Grand Fond Bay, Monos Island, was made by members of the Trinidad Field Naturalists' Club over the weekend of August 1 — 3, 1964. Four tents were erected at the same camp-site, but the expected rain was quite light, being mainly light showers from 2 p.m. — 3-30 p.m. on 1 August, a sharp shower at 1 p.m. on the 2nd, and an hour's downpour at midday on the 3rd. The party consisted of 15 members and guests, namely G.E.L. Laforest, R.P. French, J.P. Fortune, Miss E. Molineaux, Mrs M. French, R. Manuel, Miss T. Leekam, N. Andalcio, T. Farrell, H. Kerr, W. Henckel, W. Look Kim, A. Look Kim, and S. French.

Since several other members were unable to be present, it was impossible to cover the natural history as adequately as in May; but work was done on the bird life, orchids, insects and reptiles. Some interesting facts concerning the breeding seasons of birds and their size variations came to light, whilst some more interesting orchids were collected.

The valley of Grand Fond was damp on this occasion, but not really wet. There was still no water in the stream bed, though there was some in stagnant pools near sea-level. The vegetation was very green; guava and mango trees were well laden, and the ground beneath them was scattered with rotten fruit, which attracted many creatures, including Mr. Villafana's pig. Mosquitoes were more prevalent than in May, but there were still no sandflies. Butterflies seemed very common, and we regretted the lack of an enthusiast in the party. There also seemed to be very many millipedes about. Lizards were as common as in May, but the only snake seen was one *Drimorbius* sp., which was not caught.

Two separate parties, one led by the President, reached the highest peak on Monos, 942 feet, from which a wonderful view was obtained, while R.L. Manuel led a group on exploration to Biron Bay, south-west of Grand Fond.

It was felt by both expeditions that such trips should be made regularly by the Club, and that they have provided a really worthwhile contribution towards the knowledge of Natural History in Trinidad.