

# NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

THESE notes are culled from the quarterly bulletins (Q.B.) to record the more important observations there in a more permanent form and from isolated observations not previously published.

1. *Turtles*. Full details of the leatherback turtle project will be described in a future issue. However, nesting records of other species are rare so at this stage all observations are valuable. On the morning of 21st August 1975 Ian Lambie and a party of club members found tracks of a hawksbill or green turtle at Madamas Bay (Q.B. 25th Sept. 1975). Nigel Boos found hatchling loggerhead turtles at Patience Bay, Toco on 1st August 1976 (Q.B. 5th Oct. 1976). A party of naturalists from the Asa Wright Nature Centre found a green turtle hatchling at Manzanilla on 11th July 1976. It was covered in oil so it was taken back to the nature centre, cleaned and later released at Blanchisseuse.

2. *The rusty tipped Page (Metamorpha epaphus)*. According to Barcant's book this is a rare butterfly with only four previous records. Yet, several specimens have been seen recently. Either the butterfly is becoming more common or people are becoming more aware of butterflies. One was captured on the Santa Cruz — Maracas Bay trail in November 1975 (see Stradling's note in this issue). T.F. Farrell and V.C. Quesnel saw one at Mount Catherine on the club's excursion of 25th January 1976 (Q.B. 23rd March 1976). Edward Rooks caught one on Mount Catherine on 28th November 1976 and George Biggs has caught nine during the past 3 years on the Saddle Road where it passes from Maraval to Santa Cruz.

3. *Birds*. A yellow-rump cacique (*Cacicus cela*) captured at night at Talparo on July 1975 carried a band on its leg (No. 813 — 30653) which had been placed there by Brooke Worth in December 1964. The bird was therefore at least eleven years old when captured.

Ian Lambie and a group of Canadian birdwatchers spotted a white ibis in the Caroni Swamp on 9th March 1976. The white ibis is a rare visitor to Trinidad (Q.B. 23rd March 1976).

Two counts of oilbird nests at the Oropouche Cave where made on the club's visit of 7th March 1976. One gave 254 and the other 247. Therefore, adult birds probably number over 500 (Q.B. 23rd March 1976).

4. *Mammals*. The tayra (*Eira barbara trinitatis*), a member of the weasel family, is a rarely seen mammal in Trinidad. Mary Alkins saw a full grown specimen at Chaguaramas on the road that leads to the Mount Catherine trail on 25th January 1976 (Q.B. 23rd March 1976).

5. *Plants*. *Posoqueria trinitatis* (Rubiaceae) is a plant whose flowers have fragrant, white, tubular corollas of extraordinary length, ca, 20 cm. It is also considered to be uncommon in Trinidad. V. Quesnel saw several specimens on either side of the Salbea-Matura Trace near its junction with the main road on the club's field trip of 26th September 1976 (Q. B. 5th Oct. 1976).