

REFERENCES

- (1) Parker, H. W. Tropical Agriculture 10: 8, 1933.
 (2) Parker, H. W. Tropical Agriculture 11: 123, 1934.

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Notes on Insect Pests

Two infestations occurred on fodder crops at Central Experimental Station, which may be the first of their kind recorded in Trinidad:

- (a) Kudzu (*Pueraria phaseoloides*) defoliated by the leaf-webbing moth *Lamprosema indica* F.
 (b) Pangola Grass (*Digitaria decumbens*) attacked by the leaf hopper *Kolla mollicella* Fowl.

It has been shown recently that the role of *Rhyncophorus palmarum* is unimportant in the spread of the nematode, *Aphelenchoides cocophilus*, which causes red ring disease of coconuts, as the main path of infection is through the roots from the soil.

G. STELL.

The King Vulture in Trinidad

The subject of this note is the King Vulture, *Sarcoramphus papa*. The only previous, first-hand record of this bird was by E. C. Taylor in 1864, who saw several feeding together on a dead python. Dr. A. Leotaud writing two years later in 1866 stated that the bird was common enough in certain parts of the island that he had not yet visited but that he personally had not had the privilege of seeing or examining one. Mr. Smooker heard of one in 1913 as occurring in the south of Trinidad but had never seen one, and Mr. R. Johnson told me that once in the company of the late Prof. Urich at Mayaro he saw what was unmistakeably this bird.

A specimen was shot from the Quare Dam road in high forested country on April 18, 1942, by someone who may have mistaken it for a chicken hawk. A Mr. Froix of the Central Water Scheme passed the hunter with the wounded bird and persuaded him to hand it over. It was brought to the Imperial College the same afternoon and died within an hour. Those of us who saw it alive were indeed thrilled with the gorgeous colouring of its soft, head parts and its handsome plumage. The bird was preserved, but the coloured skin of its bare head faded soon after death and the colours had to be painted on to the mounted specimen which is now in the collection at the Royal Victoria Institute Museum. The colours are in no way exaggerated and if anything a little on the dull side, good as they are.

E. M. CHENERY.

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The Density of the Population of Breeding Kiskadees in Port-of-Spain

Although widely distributed throughout Trinidad, the kiskadee, *Pitangus sulphuratus trinitatis* (Hellmayr), is predominantly a bird of the towns and villages. During the 1954 breeding season, an attempt was made to estimate the density of the breeding population in a small area of Port-of-Spain. The area selected was that bounded by Prada St., Tragarete Rd., Elizabeth