

Editorial: 15 Years as Editor of Living World

This is my last issue of Living World as its Editor. I have been Editor for the last 15 years and during this time I have been privileged to work with an editorial team which was dedicated and determined to produce a journal which could be accepted in scientific circles. In the process, we have made many changes to previous issues starting with the issue of 1997-1998.

One of the first things we did was to standardize the references. Previously, authors differed in the way the references were presented. Even in the same article some authors varied in the way they presented their references! We also standardized the font size of the text to 11 pts New Times Roman as well as column width. Later, we introduced abstracts and a list of key words. We also introduced a section for "Short scientific communications" which we later changed to "Nature Notes".

In 2005, we introduced Guest Editorials from outstanding members of the local community versed in our biota to reflect on the burning issues on our environment, the first of which was written by the late Julian Kenny. The Journal has now settled down to a format which includes studies or observations on natural history of Trinidad and Tobago and the wider Caribbean, matters of conservation or taxonomic interest and recognition of individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Club. We have also widened access to the Journal for authors who are not members of the Club.

One of the more significant things we did was the use of referees which raised the quality of papers published and here I pause to thank the Reviewers most heartily for taking the time off from their busy schedule to review papers for us. They have indeed helped to raise the standard of the Journal.

There were also physical changes, the major one being the use of Matt paper instead of the Bond paper we had been using for printing. The Bond paper was not adequate for reproducing line drawings and photographs with sharp figures. Apart from the cover, colour was first used in 1997-1998, but because of cost the number of pages with colour was kept to a bare minimum. Since then our printer has made changes to their plant which eliminated the need to make colour separations so that printing with colour became cheaper. This change allowed us to move to a full colour format starting with the 2010 issue. Laminating of the cover started in 2003 which made for a sturdier and more lasting cover.

In 2004, we partnered with the Life Sciences Department of The University of the West Indies (St. Augustine) to produce a Supplement to Living World. The Supplement consisted of the "Proceedings of the Nature of the Islands" (a conference on Caribbean island natural history, in mem-

ory of Peter R. Bacon). Subsequently, two Supplements were produced in 2011 and one in 2012, again jointly with the Life Sciences Department, U.W.I.

As the Journal began to improve, so did the number of researchers wanting to place their articles in Living World. This demand led to increased sizes of the Journal. This increase in size incurred increased costs and concern from the Management Committee. The Editorial Committee took a closer look at its management of the pages and apart from the streamlining of articles, also reduced font sizes of references and abstracts. The other change involved the placement of short Nature Notes wherever they could fit at the end of research articles. Another change to help defray the cost of production of the Journal was the acceptance of advertisements and outright donations which fell in three categories named after Hummingbirds: Ruby Topaz (contributions of \$5000.00 and above), White-Chested Emerald (contributions of \$2000.00 to \$4999.00) and Blue-Chinned Sapphire (contributions up to \$1999.00). The extra income from advertisements and donations plus partial contributions from Club members' fees helped, but were still not meeting the full cost of production. Management must find innovative ways to generate income for production of the Journal.

I must thank the Management Committee of The Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club for their confidence in appointing me as Editor of the Journal and their support over the years. Thanks are due for the support of the other members of the Editorial Committee and for their helpful and practical suggestions. These members include: Graham White, the late Paul Comeau, the late Nigel Gains, Victor Quesnel, Shane Ballah and Palaash Narace. There were others outside of the Editorial Committee who made many useful suggestions for the improvement of the Journal. Among these were: Dr. Christopher Starr, Dr. Matthew Cock and Richard ffrench.

My thanks are also due to authors for their co-operation and understanding when they had to do additional work on papers as suggested by the Reviewers. Few disagreed with the Reviewers. Indeed, some authors wrote to me asking me to thank the Reviewers for the work they had done on their papers.

I also want to thank the staff of RPL (1991) Ltd., our printer, who were always helpful and co-operative. They understood that we were trying to produce a scientific journal and were very patient with us. Special mention is made of Jaime Mungal of the Pre-Press section, Stanley Herbert, Production Manager and their staff, the Misses Salima Ramkhalawan, Melissa Bachoo and Rosalyn Panchoo. Both Salima and Melissa's formatting skills and Rosalyn's proof-reading and attention to detail were outstanding.

The 2013 Issue

In July 2012, there was bulldozing of a turtle-nesting beach at Grande Rivière on the north coast of Trinidad where eggs and hatchling turtles were destroyed. There were numerous protests and commentaries on the event in the local press. The event also made international news. Professor Paul Shaw of the Geography Department, University of the West Indies gives us a balanced view of the event as our Guest Editorialist for 2013.

In the 2013 issue of Living World there are six research articles. Matthew Cock contributes his final paper on the Hesperidae (Part 20) giving details on the taxonomy, identification and biology of various species, and he also writes on two *Udranomia* species recorded for Trinidad. The Blue-and-Yellow Macaw was extirpated from the Nariva Swamp, Trinidad in the early 1960s. However, between 1999 and 2004, 31 macaws were brought from Guyana and released in the Nariva Swamp. It was noted in 2012 that the birds were breeding and at last count there were 86 birds in the swamp. Bernadette Plair gives an account of this success. *Philornis downsi* was first described by Dodge and Aitken from Trinidad. This fly has now been found in the Galapagos Islands parasitizing the finches of the islands. Stefanie White, Raymond Martinez and Dave Chadee give their experience in collecting and trying to develop a laboratory colony of *Philornis* sp. The final research article by Roger Downie recommends common

names for Trinidad and Tobago species of frogs.

In this issue there are 14 Nature Notes, one more than in 2012.

Martyn Kenefick again reports on rare birds seen in Trinidad and Tobago in 2012.

In the 2001 issue of Living World a tribute was paid to Dr. John Stanley Beard who had done fundamental researches on our forests in the 1940s. In the same vein Dr. C. Starr and Ms. Jo-Anne Sewlal recognise Mr. Hans Boos, a long-standing member of our Club who is an authority on Trinidadian snakes as well as other aspects of Trinidad and Tobago's natural history.

In 2012, a member of the Editorial Committee and a Life Member of the Club, Dr. Paul Comeau, passed away. A tribute is given to him on page iii. A friend of the Club and one who worked on ants in Trinidad while at the University of the West Indies, Dr. David J. Stradling, also passed away in 2012 in England. A short tribute is paid to him in this issue.

While I had inputs in the 2013 issue, most of the editorial work was done by the Assistant Editor, Mr. Graham White, who will be the new Editor in 2014. I welcome him as the new Editor.

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Cover Photograph

Resembling a miniature carnival masquerader, the elegant *Sarota gyas* (Cramer) is a widely distributed butterfly of the Riodinidae family. This individual was photographed along the Inniss Field Road in south Trinidad by Kris Sookdeo.