

# THE FIELD NATURALIST

BULLETIN OF THE TRINIDAD FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

Dear Member

For some time, certain members have been expressing the feeling that there was a need for improvement in the organisation and function of the Club. Is this feeling justified? If so, how can improvement be achieved? How can we make our activities more interesting and worthwhile?

In order to determine the answers to these questions, the Management Committee has decided that at our Monthly Meeting to be held at the St. Mary's College Library on Thursday 8th February, 1973, there will be a full discussion on the Club, its organisation and activities, with the hope that many suggestions would be forthcoming from members.

Looking forward to seeing you at this very important meeting.

## FIELD EXCURSION

The next Field Excursion of the Club will be held on Sunday 25th February, 1973 to the "Oil-Bird" Cave at Cumaca.

We will be leaving St. Mary's College, Pembroke Street at 7.30 a.m. A short stop will be made at the Curepe Junction, Churchill-Roosevelt Highway at 7.50 a.m.

## 1973 JOURNAL

Due to the high cost of publication of our Journals, (approx. \$1,200 having been spent in producing the last three editions) it has been agreed that advertisements should be included in the 1973 Edition, with a view to reducing this strain on the Club's finances.

Can any of the businessmen in the Club assist?

## INCREASE IN ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

At the Annual General Meeting approval was given to the recommendation of the Management Committee to increase the Annual Subs. to \$5.00. One of the reasons for this increase has been the cost of publishing our Bi-annual Journal. However, it is proposed that a copy of the 1973 Journal, when published, will be given to every financial member free-of-charge.

## 1973 Programme of Activities

Our Programme of Activities for 1973 is now with the printers and copies should be available soon.

## VISITING ORNITHOLOGISTS

Dr. Gustav Yaki, Field Representative of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and Mr. Howard Martin two ornithologists from



Niagara Falls Ontario will be among the visitors from our Twin City of St.Catharines during the Carnival Season. The Charter Flight will be arriving on the 25th February and departing on the 12th March.

The Twinning Committee will be pleased if these gentlemen can be accommodated at the home or homes of members of the Club.

CAN YOU ASSIST ? IF YOU WISH TO PLEASE CONTACT ME OR MR.G.E.L.LAFOREST AT 62-21745 IMMEDIATELY.

WANTED

Dr.Geoff Gibbs, a member, is desirous of obtaining a set of the three bird-song recordings by Paul Schwartz. Any member wishing to sell a set may contact him at 662-4524 (during working hours) or at the Monthly Meeting.

POINTE\*A\*PIERRE WILD FOWL TRUST

During the Club's recent visit to the Wild Fowl Sanctuary at P.A.P. several members expressed a desire to become members of that organisation . Application forms will be available at our Monthly Meeting.

CLUB'S PROJECTS 1973

In addition to our interesting and successful Turtle Project the Club proposes to undertake the following Projects during 1973.

1. A study of the breeding cycle of littoral animals  
e.g. chip-chip, sandhoppers, crabs etc.
2. Marking a Nature Trail . Area suggested Maracas Valley to El Tucuche.
3. Observation of Flowering Trees and Shrubs.
4. Recording of Bird-songs.
5. Filming in the Caroni Swamp.

In order to organize these Projects we will like to have some indication of the members wishing to participate in each Project.

Please indicate in the appropriate box the Project or Projects in which you wish to participate, and return to the Hon.Sec.

Honorary Secretary,

I wish to participate in the following Project/Project

- |                          |                          |                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | TURTLE PROJECT           | <input type="checkbox"/> | TRAIL MARKING PROJECT          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | LITTORAL ANIMALS PROJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> | OBSERVATION OF FLOWERING TREES |

.....NAME.....



## A DESCRIPTION OF THE CLUB'S PROJECTS FOR 1973

### TURTLE PROJECT                    -    Co-ordinator    Dr. Peter Bacon.

Although we have collected a large body of data on the Leatherback, we have almost no information on the nesting of smaller species, e.g. Green Hawksbill, Ridley and Loggerhead.

Furthermore there are few reliable exploitation records - i.e. how many turtles are killed at the fishing depots and how much turtle meat is sold in the markets.

This year we should remedy this situation as follows :-

1. Visit the North Coast beaches once a week (at least)
2. Visit the fishing depots to collect records and to observe any captured turtles. e.g. Carenage Toco, Cedros.
3. Visit markets on Sunday mornings, e.g. Sangre Grande.
4. Continue tagging at Nakura and Las Cuevas.

The Project field work will start on 1st April and continue as long as possible but at least to the end on June.

Identification keys for the turtles and questionnaire forms for recording observations will be provided.

### BREEDING CYCLE OF LITTORAL ANIMALS

Tropical seas are almost unchanging environments and one would not be surprised to find that tropical marine animals breed all the year round. Terrestrial animals, on the other hand live in an environment which is not as constant and they might be expected to show cyclic breeding.

Dr. Victor Queanell's proposal is for a study of the breeding cycles in littoral animals because on the sea shore marine and terrestrial environments meet. Species might include sand dollars, chip-chips, other molluscs, sandhoppers, crabs, other crustaceans. Samples could be collected every month, preserved and examined for eggs. Only species in which eggs are conspicuous could be used to make the study easier. Advice from professional biologists will be sought in specifying the details of the study and carrying it out.

### TRAIL MARKING                    \*            Co-ordinator    Bull Milne-Horne

In 1971 the Club had discussed with the Conservator of Forests the desirability of creating Nature Trails in suitable locations in the Northern Range. It was decided to utilize the well-known El Tucuche Crown Trace from Maracas Valley, but work was never commenced on the Project.

The Club wishes to begin this Project during the "Dry Season" of 1973. What does this Project entail? (a) Determining the type of trail. (b) Familiarity with work site (c) Identification of Trees (d) Identification of other points of interest (e) Erection of Sign-posts and markers (f) Creating interest along the trail etc.

OBSERVATION OF FLOWERING TREES

This is undoubtedly the simplest of the Projects commencing in 1973.

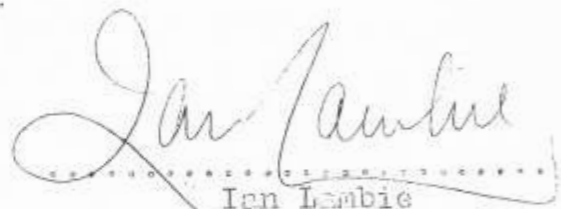
It entails the observation and recording of the flowering and fruiting etc. of selected flowering trees.

We are sure that every member has at least one flowering tree in close proximity to his home, school or office. All that is required is an interest in the Project, a pencil and a note book in which to record your observations.

Some of the species which may be selected for study include the Yellow Poui, the Pink Poui, the Pride of India (Queen of Flowers) the Yellow Cassia the Flamboyant etc.

Please indicate whether you are interested in any of the proposed Projects by ticking the appropriate box or alternatively suggesting other Projects.

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING ON THURSDAY



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Ian Lambie

Honorary Secretary  
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