

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

FIRST QUARTER - 1987

M E E T I N G S

You are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the club to be held in the Audio-Visual Room of St. Mary's College on Thursday January 8, 1987 at 5.30 P.M.

A G E N D A

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the last A.G.M.
2. Business arising out of the Minutes
3. Honorary Secretary's Report for 1986
4. Honorary Treasurer's Report for 1986
5. Reports (verbal) from all interest groups
6. Statement from the President
7. Election of Officers for 1987
8. Other Business

You are also invited to attend the monthly meetings to be held on Thursdays - February 12th and March 12th 1987 at 5.30 P.M. at the Audio-Visual Room of St. Mary's College.

A G E N D A

1. Confirmation of the Minutes
2. Business arising out of the Minutes
3. Announcements
4. Exhibits and Miscellaneous Notes
5. Other Business
6. Lecture

L E C T U R E S

Feb. 12th - AQUATIC INSECTS, ECOLOGY & ZOOGEOGRAPHY by Ms. Victoria Jones
Mar. 12th - NIGHT JARS by Dr. Victor Quesnel

F I E L D T R I P S

Jan. 24/25th - CAMP AT ICACOS
Feb. 22nd - MANZANILLA POINT (Leave POS 6.00 a.m.)
Mar. 29th - MADAMAS ROAD (Leave POS 6.00 a.m.)

ESPECIALLY FOR NEW MEMBERS

What to expect from the Club and what the Club expects of you

1. The Club has monthly lectures/meetings and outings which you are invited to attend. When on outings members are required to observe the objectives of the Club, especially in the conservation of Naure and natural resources which of course demands that the surroundings be left as intact and as clean as possible. All garbage should be taken back with you to be disposed of and not left behind for other members to have to collect. No musical instruments should be brought on field trips to the forests - on these trips we want to listen to the music of nature. Young children will be allowed only if accompanied by parents or guardians. Every member should bring along his or her basic requirements for the day i.e. water and food. In the rainy season a change of clothing is recommended.
2. Quarterly bulletins are sent to all financial members. The annual subscription becomes payable in January.
3. Biennially you will receive a copy of the Club's Journal "Living World".

Locusts at Moruga Bouffe (V. Quesnel)

Members will remember that on our field trip to Moruga Bouffe on February 27, 1983 we saw thousands of locusts devouring the vegetation. At the time, no one in the group could identify it. Now, however, - I can provide its name: Coscineuta virens. An account of its biology has been published in the Journal of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago, 36, 33 - 39, 1986. Very briefly the life history is as follows. Eggs are laid in November and hatch in January and February. The nymphs that hatch go through several instars and become adult in April and May. Mating occurs in late October and early November and egg-laying follows in late November once more. The eggs are laid in slightly elevated sandy soil relatively free from vegetation. Each female lays one egg capsule with 15 to 20 eggs. When we saw them in February 1983 the nymphs were only about a month old and that is why they were relatively small.

Field trip to the Cuesa River, Tucker Valley, on September 28, 1986 (V. Quesnel)

This trip was billed as a trip to the Covigne River but later examination of the 1 : 50,000 map of the area showed that the river was the Cuesa and that it flowed from the north and not from the east as it had seemed to do when we were actually there. On leaving our cars at an agricultural centre we had an easy walk through agricultural land at the start until we reached the river. Then, following the bank, we came eventually to a narrow gorge through which the river cascaded and which was impassable without being thoroughly soaked. Many of the younger members took this option and waded or swam through the pools until they came out into the upper part of the river. Luisa, Frankie and I climbed up the hill to the left and down again beyond the gorge but did not go more than 100- 200 m further upstream before turning back. There was nothing very remarkable about the vegetation so I did not make notes on all the plants but it was obvious that Bois pois, Swartzia pinnata, was very common. This is a tree in which the inflorescences spring from the trunk of the tree as they do in cacao. At the time of our visit there were no flowers, only fruit. On the flat just before we arrived at the river bank there was a small tree with large, compound leaves and orange berries which I had not seen anywhere before. It was later identified at the National Herbarium as Leea indica (Vitaceae - grape family), an introduced plant known, so far, only from Tucker Valley. I identified many species of common birds and the not-so-common Forest Elaenia but the rarest were reserved for the end of the trip when we returned to the flat open area: a bat falcon (Falco ruficularis) and a Grey-headed Kite (Leptodon cayanensis)

Field Trip along Rincon Trace in the Las Cuevas area on October 26, 1986 (F. Farrell)

A party of 38 persons in 14 cars took part in this trip. Previous trips along Rincon Trace had not ended up at the high waterfall to be found in this area, but at other less interesting spots. After leaving the parking place the path was well defined and easy. The vegetation was typical of the northern slopes of the western part of the Northern Range and as this has been described in previous bulletins no useful purpose would be served by describing it again. No unusual plants were seen, but at the waterfall the cliff face was covered predominantly by a bromeliad, PITCAIRNIA INTEGRIFOLIA. As the path got nearer to the waterfall it became very steep and ill-defined as it had in fact become a watercourse with a channel dug into it by the flow of water during showers.

Butterflies were scarce and only one was caught, but I have not as yet been given the name.

The bird-watching group was the section of the party that had the most interesting time. The list of birds below gives what was observed by Paul Christopher and Sylvia Kacal:-

Blue-crowned Motmot - MOMOTUS MOMOTA
Green Kingfisher - CHLOROCERYLE AMERICANA
White Hawk - LEUCOPTERNIS ALBICOLLIS
Purple Honeycreeper - CYANERPES CAERULEUS
Turquoise Tanager - TANGARA CYROLA
White-lined Tanager - TACHYPHONUS RUFUS
Palm Tanager - THRAUPIS PALMARUM
Crested Oropendola - PSAROCOLIUS DECUMANAS
Orange-winged Parrot - AMAZONA AMAZONICA
Rufous-tailed Jacamar - GALBULA RUFICAUDA
Golden-headed Manakin - PIPRA ERYTHROCEPHALA
Whitebearded Manakin - MANACUS MANACUS
Golden-fronted Greenlet - HYLOPHILUS AURANTIIFRONS
Kiskadee - PITANGUS SULPHURATUS OR MEGARHYNCHUS PITANGA
Bananaquit - COEREBA FLAVEOLA
Short-tailed Swift - CHAETURA BRACHYURA
Corbeau - CORAGYPS ATRATUS
Rufous-breasted Hermit - GLAUCES HIRSUTA
Tufted Coquette - LOPHORNIS ORAATA

BIRDS Identified Positively by Calls:

Plain-brown Woodcreeper - DENDROCINCLA FULIGINOSA
White-tipped dove - LEPTOTILA VERREAUXI
Channel-billed Toucan - RAMPHASTOS VITELLINUS
Bearded Bellbird - PROCNIAS AVERANO
Barred Antshrike - THAMNOPHILUS DOLIATUS
Black-faced Antthrush - FORMICARIUS ANALIS
Tinamou - CRYPTURELLUS SOUI
Rufous-browed Peppershrike - CYCLARHIS GUJANENSIS

As the party neared the waterfall it could be seen through openings in the foliage. The path led steeply downhill and became more and more indistinct. The fall was a sight worth seeing. Falling down a practically vertical cliff the water was broken down into numerous cascades caused by unevenness of the cliff face. I estimated it to be lower in height than the Maracas waterfall but with a greater volume of water. At the base was a fairly large pool somewhat marred by the trunks of trees that had fallen into the water.

Luisa Zuniaga
Honorary Secretary

December 28, 1986.