

# THE FIELD NATURALIST

BULLETIN OF THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FIELD NATURALIST CLUB

FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992

Dear Member

You are invited to attend the Monthly Meetings of the club to be held on Thursdays, October 8th and November 12th at 5.30 p.m. at the Audio-Visual Room of St. Mary's College. Also the field trips as listed hereunder.

## 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

Oct. 8th - BUTTERFLIES & BUTTERFLY COLLECTING IN TRINIDAD  
by Dr. C. de Gannes & Mr. S. Alston-Smith

Nov. 12th - TAXIDERMY by Mr. Frank Cook

## F I E L D T R I P S

Oct. 25th - UP THE GRAND RIVIERE (leaving 6 am from UWI)

Nov. 29th - MONOS

CHRISTMAS PARTY - As you all know the only official activity of the club for the month of December is the Christmas party - Are we having one this year and are there volunteers, suggestions about venues and type of gathering? Please think about it and come prepared.

NOTICE is hereby given to members that in our next bulletin we will be proposing an additional clause in our Rules for adoption at the club's A.G.M. in January 1993 as follows:-

"In the event of winding-up or dissolution of the Club, the surplus assets shall be paid or distributed to another charitable institution approved by the President."

This additional clause is necessary to meet the requirements for application to the Board of Inland Revenue for 'Charitable Status'.

## VISIT TO CHACACHACARE ISLAND 22-23 AUGUST 1992 by R. Martinez and R. Ragoonanansingh

On this our second visit to Chacachare Island, our efforts were concentrated mainly on arthropods affecting man, though quite a bit of attention was also devoted to the butterfly varieties present on the island. Included in our investigations on those arthropods which affect man were the mosquito populations present as well as that of scorpions.

Our search for scorpions turned out to be immensely rewarding. Using a portable ultra violet lamp, the ground and vegetation was scanned along an approximate distance of one (1) kilometre from our camp. As scorpions fluoresce in the presence of U.V. light only when the surroundings are minimally illuminated, the grand search began at 19:00 hrs. after the sun had set and the area had become sufficiently dark. We scanned the area for two (2) hours and collected seventeen (17) scorpion specimens. These were identified as:

<u>Tityus trinitatis</u> Pocock	1 male
<u>Ananteris cussinii</u> Borelli	2 males
<u>Microtityus rickyi</u> Kj. Waering	6 males 8 females

Both Ananteris cussinii and Microtityus rickyi have not been previously recorded from Chacachacare Island. On our first overnight field visit back in 1991, we found Tityus melanostictus bringing our findings to a total of four (4) scorpion species to the island thus far.

Of the mosquitoes investigated, Aedes taeniorhynchus were found to be most abundant. Their effects on man (and woman) could be experienced all day between 06:00 and 19:00 hrs. Four hundred and fifty (450) attacking mosquitoes were caught (and viciously put to their death) during a 15 minute pause along the trail to the Salt Pond.

During the treks that were made over both days a dozen or so Emperor butterflies, Morpho peleides insularis were spotted and two were captured. To the best of our knowledge there has apparently been no record of this species on the island to date. Other butterflies encountered included the Postman, Heliconius melpomene and the Flambeau, Colaenis iulis.

All specimens except two beautiful, male Emperor butterflies have been deposited in the reference collection of the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre.

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#### PROPOSED FIELD TRIP TO VENEZUELA

Members will be glad to know that Christopher Starr and Victor Quesnel are planning a week's trip in August/September 1993 to two contrasting sites in nearby parts of Venezuela, (1) Paria Peninsula and (2) a savanna locality Southwest of the Paria Peninsula. Travel probably fly to Margarita and ferry to Cumana and then bus. Accommodation preferably 'Simla'-like in each site. For guidance Chris will contact a classmate of his at Universidad de Oriente and we could also call on our counterpart organization, Sociedad Conservacionista Audubon de Venezuela with whom we have been exchanging bulletins for the past year. Visas will be required but this should present no problems. We hope to keep cost to a maximum of \$2000 per person.

You will realize that this trip will require greater planning than usual. We are, therefore, asking those interested and in a position to go (please make sure first that you can get your holidays, and the money, of course) to give their names as soon as possible so that we could start making the necessary arrangements. A down-payment will probably be required later on to firm-up reservations.

Luisa Zuniaga  
Honorary Secretary  
September 24, 1992

1 Errol Park Road  
St. Ann's, POS.  
Trinidad, W.I.



A truly beautiful morning passing through Loango Village and loftily driving up exalted Mount Zion, was a good inspiration for our field trip. Mr. Ismael Samad (Hon. Asst. Secretary) welcomed everyone to this field trip. Standing at the rustic cottage of Tucuche Nature Study Centre, Mr. Samad told us what to look for on our journey, e.g., the golden tree frog, the Adolpher butterfly, the giant earth worm, the orange billed Nightingale thrust, the Coco thrust and the mountain pigeon.

The energetic journey began at 7:15 a.m. with John, a humble villager, leading the path. Mr. Samad could be seen tying a white strip of cloth on a tree, an indication of our starting point. Passing through a "Tonka Bean" field was ideal for some young folks, satisfying their palate and completing their breakfast. As our flight of steps began the upward path of the slope, Mr. Samad indicated the Morang Pool which can be our "return journey retreat".

Walking through an abandoned estate, and then Lower Mountain Forest a Crested Oropendola, (*Psarocolius decumanus*) flew over our heads. This "Cornbird" with a chestnut rump and a bright yellow tail, made some gurgling notes as if to say to us "Good Morning". We continued our way up, but the fast pace we started off with, slowed down as we approach the ascent. An hour had now passed, and a beautiful experience being felt by our Naturalists. We were now "walking without touching" Mother Earth. It was a thick, spongy matting, consisting of leaves, vines and roots. Moments after this great experience, at the elevation of 700 metres, when we all looked to the "right," something was "wrong", a feeling of intense dismay, as we saw a "Logging trail". This trail which looks like a year old, will definitely precipitate, a considerable amount of erosion in the rainy season. This bold, illegal and indiscriminate act must be stopped and should draw some attention to our television cameras. We must protect what we are loosing and prevent any further deterioration to our primary forest.

The upward climb continued feverishly, as undaunted field naturalists demonstrated their courage "by the sweat of their brow", trying to accomplish and reach the top of this 922 metre (3,072 feet) peak. Amidst the thick foliage beneath and the Montane Rain Forest above, many vines and branches stood in the right place, to give relief, to the tiring hands of our field naturalists. A very massive Crapaud tree can be seen to the right. To the left is an incredibly beautiful "vertical scenery" (looking straight down). As we almost reached the peak, the keen eyes of Mr. Samad indicated the "droppings" of a Deer (*Mazama Americana Tinitatus*). This is good news, that wild life is still vibrant here. Continuing slowly now, a "melodious" breeze blew through the leaves and branches and stood by our side, until we reached the top of Tucuche Country.

Our first group of "hikers" have finally done a remarkable act of achievement. The unbroken view of this enchanting place, seems to be very special. Some field naturalists relaxed, while others looked around in amazement. Tucuche, meaning "Humming Bird", given by the Amerindians, could be seen written and stuck to a "lemon tree". By this time, an enthusiastic applause, as Mr. Carral Alexander (Vice President), made his way to the top. Haroon, Anoop and some friends were also applauded. Still looking around, this time an ovation as Mr. Samad came to the top and Selwyn (Hon. Treasurer), together with his much loved "straw hat". As some field naturalists continue to enjoy a premature lunch at 10:15 a.m., others looked through their binoculars.

Tucuche country was the right place to be, and everyone seems to be enjoying the Panoramic view and the company of each other, including the "loquacious entertainment" of Eurico Jardim. Eurico seems to be the "star" of Tucuche country, as the swift (*Chaetura brachyura*) flew over his head "very swiftly". Even "multi-talented" photographers, Carral Alexander and Haroon Hussain had to stoop to conquer, to get a picture of Eurico Jardim as he lay comfortably amidst "beautiful" ladies.

A little interruption now, but most coherently, as Paul Christopher made an appeal to all field naturalists, and others, who have thrown snack bags, paper and litter, along the way; to please remove them and take their garbage with them on their journey back. He said we must be able to set a "better example" and not be like other hikers, as he displayed a "Peardrax bottle" in his hand, left by some indiscriminate person in the past. (Thank you very much, Paul, we need more people like you in the Naturalist Club).



As we continue to enjoy "Tucuche Country", many curious faces stood behind cameras and binoculars. A beautiful view of the "Caroni Swamp" and the "Sewer Pond" at the Beetham Estate. Santa Cruz and its posh houses did not need the binoculars. Morne Bleu looked "a bit misty" and the tempting waters of Las Cuevas beach "seemed like one jump away".

It was now time for Mr. Samad to specially appreciate our foreign visitors, who could be seen enjoying the warmth of our cosmopolitan field naturalists. One of our visitor came all the way from Minnesota and another from Kenya. Mr. Samad then asked, "Are there any other visitors?" The answer was, "Yes." A third visitor said he came all the way from St. Anns, Port of Spain. Well, Mr. Samad did give Eurico Jardim equal appreciative reception as he did to our foreign visitors.

We now geared up to leave Tucuche Country through a different route, and hopefully meeting the trail a little lower down. This time (John) had some strenuous clearing to do. Ahead of us is a beautiful palm (Euterpe Broadwae) swaying in the breeze. Some extremely tall ferns can also be sighted. A much relaxed walk, this way, until we met with the old trail. Some voiced their opinions, as to which way looked more difficult, "the journey in, or the journey out". It did not matter to me, rough or tough, as I was enjoying every bit of the trip. An astonishing piece of "bird calling" was done by Paul Christopher. As Paul whistled, he persuasively brought, a Black Face Anthrush (*Formicarius Analis*), closer and closer to our fortunate people at the back. We stood silently as the Anthrush really seems to be caught up by Paul. As the challenge went, it became difficult to tell, "who was Paul and who was the Anthrush".

The astonishment was not yet over, for the best is yet to be. Continuing slowly, a Manakin's "LEK" can be seen. Mr. Samad told us, it is a very large Lek and also an old one, because he ~~know~~ knew it for a very long time. Ahead of us can also be seen a Manakin's nest, with two hatchlings. The hatchlings of this "White Bearded Manakin" (*Manacus manacus*) had our foreign visitors and Haroon, looking on in amazement. As Mr. Ismael Samad continued looking at the innocence of the "Hatchlings", he seemed to be emotionally touched and ornithologically stupefied, admiring nature's way of unfolding its glory.

"Myself," also pondering at the two hatchlings, I seemed to be telling them "thoughtfully", "Oh, Baby Manakins," our field naturalists loves you very much, and will always try to keep your 'domain' protected. We may not 'see' you in this 'instinctively' built nest by your loving mother, on our next trip, but I am sure, it would be enough, just to "hear" you, amidst the beautiful forest of Tucuche country". "Baby Manakins," this 'writer' will never forget the 'solemn moments' when you opened your mouths and nodded your heads, as if to say to the world, 'Please protect us'".

We continued walking and reached the "Morang Pool". A multitude of bathers could be seen having a rollicking time. It looked much like a "Sunday bath village routine" to this pool. Most of our field naturalists just cooled their feet and preferred to give way to the "jovial and boisterous" villagers. The walk to our vehicles ~~were~~ were not far way. As we reached our vehicles, exhausted field naturalists still felt, a certain degree of great accomplishment.



The dark clouds and torrential showers of this gloomy morning, soon dissipated into thin air, as the moments grew closer for our long planned field trip to the "Sister Isle of Tobago". Meeting at the "Cruise Ship Complex" on this busy afternoon, we then joined the line to get our tickets "checked". I can see a very long line here, but a bit of Tricki-dadian stuff" by our "Vice President" worked out well. A field naturalist way up in the line, ~~were~~ then given the rest of our tickets to get them "checked out". Well done! We then proceeded with our luggage, and embarked on the M.F. Panorama.

The boat began cruising at 2:05 p.m., as Haroon Husain commented on the punctuality of the "ferry", (being five minutes late). Loaded to capacity with passengers, cars and "trucks", filled with "concrete and hollow clay blocks" for the construction industry in Tobago, we cruised on. Some of us on the open deck enjoying ourselves, were frequently interrupted by "empty bags and snack paper" flying across with the breeze. Our caring "field naturalists" captured some of the litter and took them to the "bin", while ~~others~~ flew into the sea. A survey throughout the boat by myself and Neil Birbal, indicated that everything was going "just right". Intense conversation continued on various topics of interest by Mr. Alexander, Haroon, Richard, David and many others of the diplomatic core on this field trip. The ferry cruised on, un-interruptedly, on the sea being described as "relatively calm" by a security on the boat.

It's 7:55 p.m. now, and the glimmering lights of Scarborough ~~was~~ sighted. As we approach the harbour we ~~felt~~ a bit of "tremulous agitation" as the Captain almost touched the "jetty". Some said he did "touch". A "strapping Rasta" yelled "Captain, doh smash up we jetty nah!". After three attempts the Captain finally "did it right", and, a few minutes later we disembarked. Efficient transportation arrangements were made by Carrall Alexander, so we had no waiting to do. We then boarded the bus and headed for "Crown Point Hotel". It took us a "cool" twenty-five minutes drive, arriving at the hotel at 8:45 p.m.

Awaiting us here was Selwyn Gomes, who came via B.W.I.A. Together with Alexander, they quickly arranged the "keys" for the hotel rooms. In groups of four, one person collected the keys and off we headed for our rooms. A curious and "nocturnal" walk took us to the clean and commodious rooms of this conveniently located Crown Point Hotel.

It's 9:15 p.m. and the President of the "Tobago branch" of the "field naturalist club", "Romano Mac Farlane", came, and introduced himself to the club members, in their various rooms (accompanied by Alexander). An itinerary for the next day ~~were~~ then worked out, by Carrall and Romano. As Romano left us for the night, information about our departure time for our morning trip at 6:30 a.m. ~~were~~ then related to all field naturalists.

We took full advantage of our "airconditioned rooms". After a pleasant night sleep, arising at 5:00 a.m., I was greeted by a "White-Tipped dove" (*Leptotila Verreauxi*). This large "greyish-brown" mountain dove, seems to be well acquainted with people. A circular walk on the concrete pathway along the swimming pool, was a morning energizer. The birds were chirping in all their glory, and the whistling sound of the early morning breeze, passing through the "Casuarina" (*Casuarina Equisetifolia*) Whistling Pine added to the perpetuity of this glorious environment.

Walking slowly, the first person I saw was Christopher K. Starr as he eagerly began his research on "social wasps" along the tennis court area. It's 6:10 a.m. and many field naturalists arose and took off for the beach. Romano Mac Farlane (Tobago President) came at 6:25 a.m. - by this time we were all "geared up" and walked to the bus.

Our first stop, on this early morning trip was at an "abandoned Quarry" operated by S.R.C. - "Road closed, long barrier across". We then decided to move on. Our second stop was at "Friendship". Again, "Road closed long barrier across" (old Sugar Mill ahead). We then drove patiently and pensively to "Canoe Bay" - No disappointment here.

As we came out from the bus, some field naturalists "flexed their muscles" and then walked on the evergreen savannah. The Proprietor of this "Beach Park" then came and humbly introduced himself. He said, "It's the safest beach in Tobago, you can walk up to 100 metres inside the sea, and the water would be 1 metre high. The waves are quite small here and we attract most kindergarten schools. It is the only "Man-made" beach in Tobago". Such were the words of Mr. Baptiste, who showed us around, and his humility paid off, as field naturalists gave full support to his "Bar".



Under the thatched roofs of the beach sheds at Canoe Bay, Christopher Starr collected the (Polistes Versicolor) "Jack Spaniard" and kept it in a "much feared" transparent bag. He continued his research, while Carrall Alexander made inquiries about the "illegal excavation" of sand at Canoe Bay. Mr. Baptiste said he wasn't aware of it, but a neighbour then joined the conversation and indicated an area "300 metres ahead", where sand was illegally excavated, as reported in the "Trinidad Guardian". As the information went around, Richard Wallace openly substantiated the "Guardian Newspaper" - by saying it is really the "Gospel Newspaper".

We then left Canoe Bay and drove along the Claude Noel Highway. One person suggested that the name of this highway should be changed; after knowing about the notoriety of the person, as reported in the "Gospel Newspaper". Driving through Lambeau we stopped on a hill-top, awaiting "Muriel". An interesting conversation began, with one of our field naturalists, who is also a member of the T. & T. Amateur Radio Society. Gregory Redon (Greg), spoke to "Soca Papa" from Skinner's Park, San Fernando. The reception on the "Walkie Talkie" was "unbelievably lucid". "Soca Papa" asked about our itinerary for the rest of the day - it was then related by "Greg" to him in "A Special Walkie Talkie styling".

As Muriel came in, she was cheerfully greeted by everyone. We then drove and came to "Buccoo Swamp". As we walked to the swamp, it looked rich in bird life. Among some of the birds, were the Cattle Egret (Bubulcus ibis) and the "Wattled Jacana" (Jacana Jacana) trotting on the beautiful lily. We walked further into the Mangrove, as Noel Vautrosson and Alexander admired the "ecosystem" here. Our field naturalists love this place very much and hope, that the Owner, Colonial Life Insurance of Trinidad, "ensures" full protection of the swamp.

Our lunchbreak was at Fort Bennett. A steep walk led us to ("2" British Cannons) and the (golden trumpet flower) "Allamanda" (Allamanda Cathartica) which stood outstandingly beautiful. A look ahead from the lunch shed, gave sight of "Igneous Rocks". Enjoying every moment with us on this trip, were the Chen Chow (brothers) and Jalaludin Khan, who remained close to his "cute" friend.

A tranquil drive to an old sugar mill, skilfully converted to a house at "Courland Estate", and the sight of a well constructed aqueduct was worth the while. The delectable taste of sweet Julie mangoes (Mangifera Indica) given by some of the friendliest people in the world cannot be forgotten. As field naturalists plucked mangoes (with permission), Christopher Starr was also up the tree, plucking the (Ptychocheilus) nest. A walk lower down, led to a very massive Tamarind tree (Tamarindus indica) and the old, and firmly built structure of a Sugar Mill. We then came to the bus "fully loaded" with mangoes in our bags and "stomachs".

Our next stop was at Plymouth, to the "Mysterious Tombstone". On entering the sight without "talismanic protection" we were interrupted by an "instantaneous" downpour of heavy showers. Some took shelter in the bus and others, to the cafeteria across the road. The sight of a wedding, at the church next door, was an added attraction. The heavy rains brought much "lucrative trade" to this cafeteria owner, and a "sellout" on the plain chips, which tasted extremely well. By this time the showers had subsided and we walked to the "mystery tombstone" which read, "This Tombstone of 1783, It's mysterious inscription baffles interpretation - "To the memory of Betty Stevens who died in 1783. She was a mother, without knowing it, and a wife, without letting her husband know it, except by her kind indulgences to him". Walking away from this tombstone, field naturalists looked very enigmatic, as they trotted in the drizzle to the oldest Fort in Tobago, (Fort James) built by the British in 1777.

We then left Plymouth, but the memories of the "mystery tombstone" remained. Some field naturalists trying to unravel the mystery said, Betty Stevens died in "childbirth", others said, she was skilled in "ingenuity", another said, the writer could not have been "very educated", while someone at the back of the bus said, "Like nobody wants to listen, to what I have to say". Whatever your personal interpretation may be, this inscription will continue to baffle interpretation for many centuries ahead.

Our next stop took us to Arnos Vale. Sheltering from heavy rains here, we admired two "tennis players". The "strong smell of chlorine" from the swimming pool was a concern for many, washing down to the sea. As the rain stopped, we walked up the steep gardens leading to a restaurant. Spending a few minutes and journeying back, Selwyn Gomes indicated the Rufous-Vented Chachalaca (Ortalis Ruficauda). This "Cocrico" is the national bird of Tobago.

Leaving Arnos Vale we came to Franklyn, observing two (2) very large wheels overgrown by trees. Our next stop was at Fort Grandby, where the first shipment of sugar left Tobago in 1773. The sight of an old tombstone overlooked the sea. The unbragous trees here, intensified the tranquility of this Fort.



We then left Fort Grandby under the safe hands of our experienced bus driver, James, who also has very "tenacious fingers" for holding "live Iguanas".

We then drove up the "steep gradients" and came to Fort King George. The atmospheric conditions here were ideal for "lung cleansing". Some of our "nature lovers" relaxed on top of the "Cannons".

This Fort was built by the English from 1777 to 1779. It was captured and occupied by the French from 1781 to 1793, strengthened and renamed Fort Castries. In 1790 the French troops revolted, imprisoned their officers in the Fort and set Scarborough on fire. Re-captured by the British in 1793. The French again occupied the Fort in 1802 and 1803. It was re-captured by the British in 1803 and a Garrison maintained here until 1854. During the hurricane of 1847, the roofs of the Fort Building were blown off.

We then walked across to the museum. A very impressive display of stone implements, pottery, ceramics, bones and military remains. Leaving Fort King George, we stopped at Scarborough to purchase some "food stuff" at the Supermarket. The odour of "Chicken and Chips" next door "magnetized" our naturalists. Driving off slowly, minus "Sheldon", we drove around three times until we saw "Sheldon" smiling, minus his PIZZA. We returned to the hotel and some of us went directly to the beach.

Observing thousands of footprints on this beach, and not a single piece of litter, is something which should be emulated by Trinidad. A long bath completely rejuvenated our system, with some leaving the beach at 8:00 p.m.

Returning to our rooms, it was a night of fun and friendly gathering, which looked much like "one large, happy family". The "super cooks" in room No. 15, Kaloutie Heetai, Roderick, Kimraj and Doodlan, shared tasty Fried Rice and Pelau, Macaroni and unlimited Coorma (Indian delicacy). It's great fun here now, as Selwyn an Jalaludin came to sell Field Naturalist Jerseys at \$30.00. Someone asked for a reduced price, so, the clever twosome (Sello and Jal) raised the price to \$50.00 and with "A.M. Querino styling", "auctioneered in a descending order" and sold the jerseys at \$30.00. Keep it up Sello and Jal!

After a good night sleep, we awoke to the dawn of a new day. The first person I can see for this morning again is Christopher K. Starr. He then asked for permission to put some of his "social wasps" in the "Fridge". I said it's O.K. It's 6:30 a.m. now and here is Christopher Starr opening a very cold "Dragon Stout". He drank half, put the rest of it in the fridge and then headed ~~for~~ research around the swimming pool area. By this time Romano arrived and hustled up a few who went to bed at 2:00 a.m.

Sitting in the bus driven by James again, we drove continuously through winding roads and up the Mt. Moriah hills. Overlooking the sea was the Mt. Moriah Police Station. The abundantly productive "Breadfruit tree (Artocarpus Communis) greeted us all along the way. Also, well laden Zabocca trees, bringing memories of its taste. Zabocca, (Persea Americana) contains calcium and vitamin B-2 (Riboflavin) which enhances good vision and cell respiration. It has a high content of water about 70 percent, similar to our human body, and it is "just good" for field naturalists.

Passing through Castara someone indicated where Robinson (former Statesman P.M.) was born, but no definite indication of a house or even a "post" could be seen. Approaching Englishman's Bay an encouraging sign - "Englishman's Bay Nature Reserve - No Hunting - Access by Permission only". This 400-acre Nature Reserve, is owned by two "American Brothers", Rick and Steve Hayton, now residing in this beautiful tropical isle of Tobago. Driving on the well paved Parlatuvier - Roxborough road, a "political debate" began. Work on this road was started by the P.N.M. and completed by the N.A.R. The "field naturalists and Politicians", seemed difficult in arbitrating the "praiseworthiness" of the "right regime". Also following us with his "super machine" was Noel Vaucrossen and "Roads and Highways Engineer", Haroon Husain.

We have now reached the Bloody Bay Agricultural Division of the Forestry Section. Many pictures were taken by "Ace Photographer" Carrall Alexander. We then began the hike through the "Gilpin Trail". This main Ridge Reserve is the oldest Forest Reserve in the Western Hemisphere, dating back to the year 1765. It's 10:30 a.m. and cruising along with us are the young field naturalists from Tobago - Devon, Alena, Simon, Ruthven and Matthew. Our Tobago (branch) President, Romano, led the way. The wooden steps down this steep descending trail, helped our naturalists quite well. An enlivening breeze now and inhaling vigorously is Tom Ericksen and David Nanton (brilliant school teacher and economist). Some very large "Bactris Palms" can be sighted and a Waterfall about "10 metres high". The "decisive moment" came now; to turn "right or left".



Turning "Right" would have completed the "Gilpin Trail", but we took the left turn. Walking through thick vegetation we reached the roadway at 12:20 p.m. - minus Christopher Starr. A message was sent to bus driver James, via a "passing vehicle". After waiting for twenty-five minutes, then came the bus, and soon after "Christopher Starr, "sweating" his way into the bus. Everyone greeted Starr as a special type of "HERO" but preferred he remained together with the group, doing his research - "Starr" - "entomology" is worth dying for, but we believe you should be alive, and remain admirable to all the "ladies" who love you so much.

Journeying to the "Argyle Waterfall" the jovial conversation continued, because, sitting in this bus with cheerful people, "as" Christopher Starr, Sheldon the "Pizzaman" and "lustrous" Betty Tam, it was impossible to be taciturn. Starr's finding, yielded a large scorpion (arachnids) in a bottle. Someone then asked, "What's the state of the scorpion"? Starr then replied, "It is alive and it's also pregnant", as a few brave ones had a look. Driving through the scenic villages we arrived at the "parking lot".

Walking in complete imperturbability, through the cocoa plantations (Theobroma Cacao) which lead to the cascading Argyle Waterfall, should be an experience for all Trinidadians. As for Andy, Eric and the beautiful ladies all the way from Scotland, they say - "We just love sweet Argyle Waterfall and sweet Tobago". After signing the visitor's book, we drove and came to the beaches at Richmond and Goldsborough.

Here, sand is sold legally at \$2.00 per yard. It however remained questionable, whether the "natural process" of the sea, could "bring out" enough sand for the "Construction Industry". We then came to the "19 Million Dollar" Crushing Plant at "Studely Park". The large quantity of "Andecite Rocks" here, tells of the unlimited wealth of Tobago. A small waterfall above the Quarry quenched the thirst of many field naturalists. After "one person's thirst was quenched, she said, "Shouldn't this water be boiled before drinking"? Leaving Studely Park at 4:20 p.m. we then stopped by a "Chennet Vendor" and bought twenty-five bunches of chennet - the sweetest for the year. The youngster, being overjoyed by the sale, bade us "safe journey" and "blushed". Some field naturalists then "grinned" at his gesture.

Arriving at the hotel at 5:40 p.m. we had ample time to organise ourselves for the return journey. We then walked to the sandy beach of this tropical isle and took our final bath for the trip. Re-vitalised by the cool waters, we returned to our rooms. Before leaving Crown Point Hotel, we were entertained by folk dances and songs, depicting the cultural heritage of Tobago. "Goodbye Crown Point Hotel, see you soon!"

Our bus driver came, and drove us to Scarborough. We then boarded the M.F. Panorama. The six-hour return journey was safe, arriving at P.O.S. at 5:40 a.m. (29/08/92).

"STAY AS SWEET AS YOU ARE, TOBAGO!"



MEMORANDUM

To: T&T Naturalists  
From: Christopher K. Starr, a.k.a. Marvin  
Regarding: Floral and faunal lists from Trinidad and Tobago

I am interested in comparing the relative species richnesses of Trinidad and Tobago. To that end, I am looking up lists of land or freshwater organisms in taxa that have been fairly thoroughly surveyed on the two islands.

Given the general rule of thumb that a ten-fold increase in land area gives rise to a doubling in the number of species, and the fact that Trinidad is 16.1 times as large as Tobago, we expect Trinidad to harbour about two or three times as many species as Tobago. Figures that I have to date mostly corroborate this expectation:

1. Palms, 22 species in Trinidad and 11 in Tobago (Andrew Henderson & Paul Comeau, pers. comm.).
2. Orchids, 176 species in Trinidad and 48 in Tobago (R.E. Schultes 1960).
3. Birds, 247 species breeding in Trinidad and 87 in Tobago (R. Ffrench 1991).
4. Mammals, 80 in Trinidad and 34 in Tobago (G.G. Goodwin & A.M. Greenhall 1961; J.D. Hardy 1982).
5. Frogs, 26 in Trinidad and 13 in Tobago (J.S. Kenny 1969, 1977).
6. Snakes, 35 in Trinidad and 18 in Tobago (M. Emsley 1977; Hans Boos, unpubl.).
7. Lizards, 22 in Trinidad and 17 in Tobago (Hans Boos, unpubl.).
8. Satyrid butterflies, 24 in Trinidad and 8 in Tobago (M. Barcant 1970).
9. Four-footed butterflies, 108 in Trinidad and 22 in Tobago (M. Barcant 1970).
10. Pierid butterflies, 27 in Trinidad and 13 in Tobago (M. Barcant 1970).
11. Riodinid butterflies, 104 in Trinidad and 11 in Tobago (M. Barcant 1970).
12. Lycaenid butterflies, 97 in Trinidad and 17 in Tobago (M. Barcant 1970).
13. Skippers (Lepidoptera: Hesperidae), 272 species in Trinidad and 49 in Tobago (M.J.W. Cock 1982).
14. Termites, 44 in Trinidad and 14 in Tobago (various sources, mostly unpublished).
15. Aquatic bugs (Heteroptera), 78 in Trinidad and 23 in Tobago (N. Nieser & M. Alkins-Koo 1991).

These particular taxa are useful because they seem to have been surveyed with comparable thoroughness on the two islands. Many other groups (e.g. dragonflies) have been well studied in Trinidad but only slightly in Tobago. And then there are some well known groups with too few species for useful statisticulation (e.g. turtles and crocodilians).

The emerging trend seems clear enough that any well-established exception must stand out and call for explanation. In particular, my beloved social wasps are represented in Trinidad by 34 species, yet search in Tobago has so far turned up just four species.

If you can lead me to a suitable species list of any group represented by at least 20 species in the two islands together please let me know.

*CK Starr*