

Editorial

The 2010 issue of *Living World* includes eight research articles, one checklist of three families of spiders found in Trinidad and Tobago, two reports and five Nature Notes.

Dr. Carol James, former head of the Wildlife Section of the Forestry Division of Trinidad and Tobago, a former UNDP consultant, and presently Chairman of the Asa Wright Nature Centre and of the Guardian Life Wildlife Trustees is our Guest Editor. We welcome her to our pages. Dr. James writes about the assault on our natural environment and the need for citizens to become more involved in Non-Governmental Organisations and Community-Based Organisations for the protection of our rich natural heritage and for more sustainable development in our twin-island State. Even as we go to press, our hillsides are burning with smoke and dust polluting our air. Dr. James ends her Editorial with a plea for action.

In 2005 and 2006, invasions of a saturniid moth occurred on the southwestern peninsula of Trinidad. These moths possess hairs which cause urticaria and other problems in humans. The invasions were studied by a quintet of workers headed by Perry Polar and the results of these studies and review of the species responsible for the outbreak are presented in our lead article.

Matthew Cock notes that there are more than 300 species of skipper butterflies in Trinidad and Tobago, but are little studied because of the difficulties in identification to species. He continues his series of papers on skipper butterflies which he started in 1981 and in this issue he presents part 17 of the series. Other serial papers include Jo-Anne Sewlal's collection of spiders from the Caribbean islands, this time from Montserrat. Likewise, David Bass continues with his series on freshwater macroinvertebrates in the Caribbean islands. He teams up with Mark de Silva and reports on studies on macroinvertebrates in Canash Pond, Mayreau Island which is part of the chain of islands in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. This article is illustrated by colour photographs taken by Mark de Silva.

Ryan Mohammed and colleagues update us, in two papers, on our knowledge of the distribution of freshwater fish and turtles of Trinidad. They record for the first time

the presence of the fish *Trichogaster trichopterus* in the freshwater streams of Trinidad.

There are four species of *Caladium* in Trinidad and Paul Ressler updates us on its current distribution in Trinidad.

C. Collins describes the growth and development of the Blue-and-white Swallow which he studied in Venezuela. The species exists in Trinidad. C. Collins noted that the species had a slower growth rate than some temperate species.

There are five Nature Notes in this issue: two by Matthew Cock on notes on the biology of *Pirascuca s. sagaris* and a note on the food plant of *Justinia gava*. Julius Boos, an ardent naturalist, who did extensive collecting of fauna in Trinidad and Tobago from the 1960s to the 1980s has now deposited his butterfly and other collections to the Florida Department of Agriculture and he gives a brief note on the collections. Jo-Anne Sewlal adds another spider family for Trinidad and Tobago and Matt Kelly describes the preying of a gecko on a hummingbird.

In a previous issue of *Living World* (2003), Cutler and Edwards provided us with a checklist of the jumping spiders of Trinidad and Tobago. Now, Jo-Anne Sewlal gives a checklist of the Orb-weaving species of spiders of Trinidad and Tobago.

In the seventh report of the Trinidad and Tobago Rare Birds Committee, 70 reports of sightings of rare birds were considered. Two additional species have been added to the Official List of Birds of Trinidad and Tobago. A trend started in 2008 in *Living World* is to have photographs of rare birds included in the report and we have therefore included a colour page of photographs as partial evidence for the presence of such birds in Trinidad and Tobago.

We again encourage members or readers who are not members of the Club, to submit their observations on any aspect of natural history in Trinidad and Tobago, the Caribbean islands or northern South America.

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Cover Photograph

An adult male dragonfly, *Tramea abdominalis*, a species in the Canash Pond (background photograph), a small freshwater body of water on the island of Mayreau, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.