

## Editorial

The 2014 issue of Living World represents a change in Editor and new additions to the editorial team. Dr Elisha Tikasingh has retired after 15 years serving as the Editor as described in the Editorial of the 2013 issue. We thank Dr Tikasingh for his hard work in getting the Living World to its current standard. The editorial team now includes Graham White (Editor), Yasmin Comeau, Bill Murphy and Palaash Narase. While the team has changed, our vision for the Journal has not. We will continue to encourage the publication of studies and observations on the natural history of Trinidad and Tobago and the wider region. We will continue to encourage Nature Notes so that rare occurrences or observations are recorded and not forgotten and we will continue to honour those naturalists with outstanding contributions to our knowledge of our natural history. This year we have instituted a new section containing reviews. This section will be by invitation only and address subjects for which we consider a review timely or which might encourage further work.

To create wider circulation and accessibility, we plan to be on-line by the next issue with the backlog of past issues becoming available on-line in a searchable format soon after.

This, the 2014 issue contains six research papers, eight Nature Notes, the report of the bird records committee, a review of our knowledge, or lack thereof, of Social Insects in the West Indies and two of our Notable Naturalists are highlighted.

Matthew Cock has completed his mammoth task of cataloguing the butterflies of the family Hesperidae, which was published over the last 23 years. This year he has provided us with an account of the biology of several of the skipper butterflies of Trinidad.

A team of authors, Ryan Mohammed, Shiva Manickchan, Stevland Charles and John Murphy, has given an account of the herpetofauna of southeast Trinidad, bringing together past studies and collected specimens.

We have two papers on amphibians. Roger Downie and M. Nokhbatolfoghahai tell us how to separate tad-

poles of *Mannophryne trinitatis* from *M. olmonae* but generally advise us to read the collection location off the label! Roger, this time working with N.J. Barron and Mark Greener, describes the nesting of the Gladiator Frog.

Studies on the Trinidad Motmot in Tobago have demonstrated for the first time the use of an anvil by that species for feeding on snails and other hard prey. We thank Mike Rutherford and Giovanni Bianco for this interesting study and encourage readers to see a video of this for themselves on the TTFNC webpage at [www.ttfnc.org](http://www.ttfnc.org)

All naturalists are familiar with and most have some affinity for praying mantises. In this issue Mark Greener and Mike Rutherford provide us with an account of the mantids of Trinidad and Tobago together with a well-illustrated key to help us identify those species which we may come across.

The Nature Notes section includes observations of opilionids and spiders, a leucistic hummingbird and a pod of Atlantic Spotted Dolphins in Tobago, new records of mantids, scorpions and bats from Huevos Island and an account of a location in Tobago well-stocked with invasive species.

We have our regular report from the Trinidad and Tobago Bird Status and Distribution Committee. This report includes 90 observations and tells us that the checklist for Trinidad and Tobago at the end of 2013 stood at 473 species.

Two of our Notable Naturalists are highlighted. It is fitting that one of these is our outgoing Editor, Dr Elisha Tikasingh. The other, A.M. Adamson, was of an earlier vintage.

Our new review section contains an account of our knowledge, or lack thereof, of Social Insects in the West Indies. We thank Chris Starr for this review.

**GW, June 2014**

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### Cover Photograph

This Atlantic Spotted Dolphin (*Stenella frontalis*) was one of a group of dolphins seen off the South East Coast of Trinidad and was photographed by Kerrie T. Naranjit. The Atlantic spotted dolphin is one of 19 species of cetacean known to inhabit the waters around Trinidad and Tobago. See Nature Note on page 51 which reports a sighting of this species among a large school of dolphins off the coast of Charlotteville, Tobago in 2012.

Special thanks to Michael E. Tikasingh  
for the design and layout of the front and back covers.