

St. Thomas Island, Virgin Islands

July 6, 1957

Mr. Douglas Anderson drove us to Red-hook Point and thence by boat to Lameshur on St. John Island. One photo (570706-1) at boat dock across bay from where the N.P. will eventually place their docks. At Lameshur on the south side of St. John Island, set 3 bat nets and organized equipment for field work. Will set up composite records for catches in bat nets and for censusing mongooses. I will keep these records from day to day until bat nets are changed, and will make observations from day to day on the distribution and activities of the mongoose. Mr. James Mathias, a native of Bordeaux and a fisherman by profession, reported the following:

a. Agoutis are in the upper forests of the mountain and are not uncommon there. These animals cause considerable damage to the gardens by digging roots of vegetables and banana trees. They can be captured by hunting them with dogs and at great effort. He will try to secure one for us.

b. There are many bats at Reef Bay Estate House.

c. An animal about 18 inches long was at his fish traps last week. It had a humanlike head with large eyes, heavy eyebrows and rounded cranium. The body was dark and fleshy and tapered to a finlike tail which was used for propulsion. He had never seen this animal before but thought it could be a mermaid.

d. Large sharks, 5-10 long bring small sharks 1 to 2 ft. long to the shallow waters in the morning and after the young have fed all day along the edge of the ocean, the mother will return in the evening and after swallowing the young will swim out into the deep water where they will remain until daybreak.

e. Both the green sea turtle and the hawks-billed turtle come into the shallow bays to feed on the green grasslike vegetation; this feeding only at night. A net is placed in front of the grass area and the turtles swim into it and become entangled. Frequently two turtles are caught in the same net in one night. The hawks-billed turtle is more common than the green turtle.

f. James' mother told him that she could remember the time when the now inland lake, Mill Lake, SW of Lameshur was connected with the ocean and boats entered