



Route of census of
Anolis cristatellus
from Lameshur to
Reef Bay Mill.

On the basis of this trip and one taken July 9, would estimate that there are approximately 80 'ground partridges' in the lower valley of Reef Bay from the mill to the Inscription Rocks. They are seen mainly on the ground and when approached either walk or run ahead in the fashion of a ruffed grouse or fly into the lower branches of the trees where they strain their necks and heads in the same grouse manner. These birds are definitely associated with the large tree growths from the valleys, where they are most common, to the tops of the mountains. They are not in danger of decreasing because as the forests return to normal the community will be even more favorable than today. The ground dove and mountain dove, in contrast, will be forced to peripheral edaphic areas and along the borders of the ocean.

At Lameshur, Mr. Orlando Myers, a native negro 40 years old and a fisherman + gardner reports: when he was a boy six years old, they planted grass in the valley and sidehills surrounding Lameshur to feed their stock. Above the pure grass slopes were shrubs and trees as we know them today. Rain and floods from the gullies were more common in early days than today. These torrential creeks go clear to the sea when operative. He knows of no Agouti on the island but remembers his family bringing guinea pigs to their farm on St. John where they kept them in cages. These kinds of animals are at present living on St. Thomas Island. Mr. Myers has seen the virgin timber on Tortola Island, but has never known of such timber on St. John Island.

Lameshur to Reef Bay and return, Virgin Islands
July 14, 1957

The following photographs were made on this trip: (570714-1) a