

Lameshur, St. John Island, Virgin Islands

July 25, 1957

This evening drove over to Caneel Bay for gathering of friends of Mr. Mac Farlane, manager of Caneel Bay. All members of his staff and friends were at the party. Talk to the gardener (a Russian Opera singer!) about certain experience with the mongoose. He has rarely seen the animal after dark and then only early in the night while driving on the road. They are mainly found around dwellings but occasionally away from habitation. He has seen mongooses near chickens and ground birds but neither of which they has bothered. He also reports having seen a night-jar like bird that flies down the road in front of the car lights. This evening, enroute to Mac Farlane's home from Lameshur to Caneel Bay, counted 42 pearly-eyed thrashers. This evening there was considerable rain for the first time in several weeks and the frogs were in full chorus. There are two types of calls - one a plaintive peep call and one a more basal call of a single note, sometimes 3 or four notes in succession. These calls probably represent two species of frogs or less likely females and males of the same species. The lower north side of the island is predominantly the call which is the low basal call while high in the mountains the low basal call is still dominant but less so than in the lower levels of the mountain. The east and S. E. corner of the island had only a few calls and mainly of the peep type. I would say that 90% of the island supports these two kinds of frog calls and in great numbers at any one place. There were no frogs in the road or along ^{temporary} ponds associated with the road. It is remarkable that with millions of frogs on all side, there would not be some in road. It would indicate that these frogs have definite ecological niches in the bromeliads and other kinds of plants that support water at the base of their fronds. Some of these frogs must surely cross the road in getting to new breeding places.

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July 26, 1957

Departed Lameshur at 8:00 A.M. for Caneel Bay arriving at 9:00 A.M. Enroute counted 48 pearly-eyed thrasher, most of them in the Adrian area. At Caneel Bay Cutler and I joined party on a trip to Tortola in the Caneel Bay Mary (Rockefeller's yacht.) at.