

In the waters of the channel are thousands of small fish about an inch long. These fish jump out of the water which keep the water boiling. Most fish-eating birds take small fry averaging 3 or less inches long. The natives believe the barracuda are poisonous to eat and are killing and throwing back into water large 30 lb fish that, if not poisonous should be used for food. When disturbed the small fish will swim toward shore and jump clear up onto beach. These fish are consumed by gulls.

NE side Lovango Cay, Virgin Islands

Aug. 2, 1957

At 8:00 A.M. Caneel Bay boat picked us up and transported us to the SE end of Thatch Cay. I counted the pelican population of the south side of Congo as 608 at 8:00 A.M. Apparently they are late risers. They feed during the day and return in evening to roost. At Thatch Cay I examined the area from the brackish pond area to the eastern point. At the point near the southern limit of the pond, photographed the beach, overhanging with a tree and yucca (570802-30). This area has been used by the Danish people and several cultural fragments were collected (570802-31). It is a crime that these artifacts are not studied and preserved in order to help explain the cultural background of these people. Nearly every ruin I have seen have many of these fragments lying on the ground around the house. As soon as the tourist arrive, these items will disappear for good. On Thatch Cay noted *Ameiva spul*, *Anolis cristatellus*, *Anolis pulchellus*, *Anolis stratulus* and *Sphaerodactylus*. In this area these lizards were extremely uncommon but I expect that they occur in normal numbers in those area with more natural vegetation. Even the bird life is depauperate. I observed only 2 ground doves, one pearl-eyed thrasher and a gray kingbird. At the eastern point of Thatch Cay, photographed (570802-32) Grass Cay, Mingo, Lovango, Congo and Tortola to the extreme east. There is a considerable gap between this cay and the one to the east and the channel is deep. These islands are in a straight line and must conform to a common geological control. The N sides are steep, the south sides with gentle slope as controlled by bedding planes. The metamorphosed limestone bed dip to the north at nearly 70° or 80° or more and suggest an overturn. The crew of the Caneel Bay boat caught a trigger fish which they say rests on the bottom and springs up to catch their prey. From Thatch Island we went to the straights between Mingo and Grass Cay. On Mingo Cay we noted all kinds of lizards present.