

Cliffs do not accumulate dirt. Realizing that these caves might be temporary features of the changing coastline we have searched the uplands as well. Some 40 natives have been interrogated concerning caves or sheltered areas but in each case the answer has been negative. We will try to contact Donnelly in St. Thomas on Monday and determine if, from his geological investigation of St. John, he has gained any intelligence about caves.

Question no. 2 is about time devoted to searching for fossil bones and teeth. As our main objective is to establish evidence of extinct forms, we have devoted nearly all our energies to realizing this objective. I would estimate that 80 per cent of my time has been devoted in searching for caves in sea cliffs and other rock outcroppings.

Question no. 3 asks what amount and nature of attention you have been able to give to the fauna of land vertebrates of islets that are close enough to St. John to be properly spoken of as outliers of St. John, instead of as outliers of other islands. To date we have collected on 18 outlier islands of St. John and six other islands which are to be construed as members of the Virgin Island group (including St. Croix, East Van Dyke etc.) Our practice has been to camp (complete field equipment) on one island for 4 days in which time we examine this island and those adjacent island which can be reached by a small row boat. At the end of 4 days Connel Bay would transport our gear to another group of islands for another period of 4 days. Some of these 4 days stops have been on the mainland of St. John where it is impractical or impossible to reach by vehicle. On the island, on which we camped, we set out traps, bat nets, collected by day and night and examined the shorelines and uplands for caves. On the adjoining islands to our camp we collected by gun and searched for caves.

Biologically the Virgin Islands are indeed depauperate of vertebrates. Our collection as of Aug. 10 includes 64 specimens of bats of three species (*Tadarida*?, *Artibeus* j. and *Brachyphylla* C.) nearly all the birds which have been noted in the field and of all but one species of reptile suspected to occur on the island. It was early recognized that the relationship of the outliers cays & islands to St. John Island could best be determined by geographic variation among the herps. Almost all of the various kinds of birds have been noted to fly from the mainland to the outliers. Of the vertebrates the reptiles are perhaps