

many as 10 mongooses fed at the open garbage pits at Caneel Bay. Now that the new incinerator is installed, there have been fewer mongooses but still four or five are seen each day and these animals are entering houses and buildings where they feed on any kind of food that is available. At Lameshur (July and August) mongooses fed daily at the open garbage pit, especially in the early morning and evening. At our living quarters at Lameshur, anything edible either inside the building or outside, had to be protected from the mongoose. Away from permanent buildings but associated with temporary camp sites, the mongoose soon learns to recognize a new source of nutrition in the debris and food scraps. Once they find this new source of food, they remain in the area until the camp is vacated. Although mongooses appear to remain in one area or territory, we have observed individuals covering one-fifth of a mile with a purposeful direction and speed. Several mongooses have been seen in remote places (far from human habitation). The average number of animals noted along the road on 26 trips (approximately seven miles per trip) between Lameshur and Caneel Bay (excluding areas adjacent habitation) is 2 (0-4). From Haulover Bay to Lameshur (via Bordeaux) and return, we did not see one mongoose. Mongooses were not seen on the outliers of St. John Island. We have never seen the animal before day-break or later than late twilight when lights from the car were needed to illuminate the road for driving. The early morning hours of the day are the best times for seeing these animals in the field.

Although it has been stated by several native people that the mongoose is increasing in numbers, it is evident that this animal is today ecologically stabilized and is ill-adjusted to its food relationships on the island. Its survival has been the result of adaptation to a new source of food. Additional adaptations will occur with change of successional stages in the attaining of a climax condition on the island. The mongoose has changed its normal carnivorous