

water surface. Prey items floating suspended on a stalk, one tends to see far more egg sacs than spiders or capture webs.

**\*Titanoeidae** - Medium, with a cribellum and calamistrum, the calamistrum appearing bipartite and less than half the length of the metatarsus. Natural history similar to amaurobiids, build webs with dense cribellate silk under stones and debris on ground. Found in drier habitats than are usually occupied by amaurobiids.

**Uloboridae** - The first two pairs of legs are longer than the other pairs. They possess a cribellum and construct orb webs. Uloborids lack poison glands. These orb weavers wrap their prey in silk to subdue them. The pantropical *Zosis geniculatus* (Olivier) belongs to this family and builds flimsy orb webs that degenerate with age so that the orb is not readily discernible. This species is often found in colonies in sheltered areas, in and around buildings. Another genus constructs a web consisting of a single line, others construct just a sector of an orb.

**Zodariidae** - Small to large, stout, eight-eyed spiders with more than two spinnerets although the first ones are much larger in comparison to those at the rear. Legs equally thick and robust. Ground-dwelling, hunting spiders which hide under stones, leaf litter or burrow in sand. Many are specialised predators on ants and termites.

**\*Zoridae** - Small to medium, eyes in three rows, four in anterior row, followed by two rows of two eyes in each, lack claw tufts, with strong ventral macrosetae on the legs. Fast, nocturnal hunters, on ground and vegetation.

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## NATURE NOTES

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### Predation of a Lizard by a Mockingbird in Trinidad and Tobago

On 7 June, 2003, I saw a Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*) "hovering" in front of a stone wall. It then landed in the middle of the road and dropped a small lizard, which managed to run about 50 cm before it was caught again. The mockingbird flew with the lizard into a neighbouring garden where it was no longer in view. The lizard could not be identified (it was about 10 m away), but was the size of a species of *Gonatodes vittatus*. These are common in the neighbourhood. In his book, A Guide to the Birds of Trinidad

and Tobago, ffrench (1980) notes that mockingbirds have been reported to take lizards in the Dutch Leeward Islands. If you have made observations on the predation of vertebrates by Mockingbirds, please send them to The Editor, so that they can be published as a Nature Note in a later edition of The Living World.

#### REFERENCE

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### Display of the White-tailed Sabrewing on Tobago

This display must be one of the most spectacular sights in Trinidad and Tobago, if not the whole neotropical area, and it should be a challenge for any wildlife photographer to capture on film this amazing performance.

This hummingbird, *Campylopterus curvipennis*, like many others is largely green, but the outer three pairs of tail feathers are pure white. When the male bird is performing his display at his familiar perch, he constantly calls a repeated double note "chee-chink.....chee-chink". Often, while doing this, he fans out

his tail feathers, sometimes raising the tail at the same time, so that the white feathers stand out brilliantly against the generally green background of the forest environment. It has reminded me of a miniature peacock. Occasionally the bird also raises its wings, as if about to fly.

I have found this bird displaying at Gilpin Trace on Tobago's Main Ridge, not far from the Bloody Bay Look-out, so it is not too difficult to locate. Every birder should try to share this experience, described to me by a friend as "a cosmic mind-blower".

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