

## STUDIES ON TRINIDAD'S ENDEMIC BIRD, THE "PAWI"- REFERENCES AND FINAL NOTES FOR THE WPA WEBSITE

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The references below are primarily those cited in the three-part series entitled "STUDIES ON TRINIDAD'S ENDEMIC BIRD, THE "PAWI" by John and Margaret Cooper that was published in "WPA News" during 2021. A few other articles, scientific papers or books that are relevant to the "Pawi" (the local name for the endemic Trinidad piping-guan, *Pipile pipile*), are also included.

In compiling this list, John and Margaret Cooper were mindful of the fact that previously little-known publications could be of value to those seeking to conserve and study the Pawi, especially on Trinidad, as well as research workers further afield.

The need for access to such literature was emphasised in January 2020 when *BirdLife International* wrote to the Coopers in respect of a re-evaluation of the IUCN Red List statuses of the world's birds:

[Trinidad Piping-guan \(\*Pipile pipile\*\) - BirdLife species factsheet](#)

The Coopers were asked to review the *BirdLife International* factsheet for the Trinidad piping-guan, *Pipile pipile*. They were able to advise *BirdLife* that their document (factsheet) was lacking a number of important references, especially some describing the work and achievements of the Pawi Study Group (PSG) in the early 2000s. Fortunately the Coopers were able to confirm that copies of PSG reports had been presented to the libraries of the University of the West Indies (UWI), both at the main campus in St Augustine and at Mount Hope, Trinidad.

The Coopers would like to take this opportunity to put on record that other important historical data are also available. The Minutes of all the PSG meetings, together with the PSG logbook, contain much interesting and important information about the Group's work between 2005 and 2009. The *post-mortem* reports and notes relating to the egg and embryo found during the course of the PSG's research also remain part of the group's archives, as do a selection of correspondence relating to the PSG and its work. At present all the above are in the hands of the Coopers in Britain; in due course, they should be deposited in a secure location, such as a library, preferably in Trinidad.

*Post-mortem* tissues and other material from Pawi are, it is hoped, still stored fixed, either frozen or (feathers) dried, at the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of the West Indies (UWI), Mount Hope, Trinidad.

A summarised account of the work of the Pawi Study Group (PSG) following the Coopers' return to Britain in July 2009 is to be found below, at the end of this document.

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**The following information about the PSG after the Coopers' return to Britain was kindly supplied by Dr Howard Nelson (HN) and Dr Ellie Devenish-Nelson (ED-N)**

After July 2009 PSG meetings continued and amongst other things a bulletin (see later), a Facebook page and a website were established. In July 2010 the PSG hosted a Pawi Grant Proposal Writing Workshop funded by *Birdlife* under their Global Preventing Extinctions Programme. It is hoped that a short article about these later activities will be published in due course in "WPA News" or put on the WPA website.

Perhaps an example of the challenges faced might be how difficult it was to open a bank account for the PSG in Trinidad! HN was going through his old emails and saw an email from Robyn Dalzen at the CLP about payments and we had to let Phil *et al* at WPA know that we did not have an account for the PSG with which to receive the funds.

Of course, this was 12 years ago and things have moved on, but it is a reflection of how convoluted even simple things like this were, during the time that you, the Coopers, were there.

In the period after July 2009, the PSG started producing a bulletin – first one in September 2009. Then the PSG started collaborating more with the Guardian Life Wildlife Trust which was working on developing its “Pride in Pawi” education programme (which led to a children’s story book “The promise of the Pawi”). The PSG itself drew up a constitution, and led field trips to see the Pawi at Morne Bleu and Grande Riviere, as well as public education workshops. Kerrie and Alesha Naranjit applied for a BP-CLP follow-up grant to work on the Pawi in 2009. In 2010, the PSG received a £9,000 grant from *Birdlife*, facilitated by the Guardian Life Wildlife Trust and the WPA. In parallel, the Guardian Life Wildlife Trust had received a UN Development Programme Small Grants grant to launch their *Pride in Pawi* project in April 2010.

From 8th–9<sup>th</sup> July 2010 the PSG hosted - with the Asa Wright Nature Centre, Guardian Life Wildlife Trust, the Forestry Division, EMA and the Emperor Valley Zoo- a Pawi (Trinidad piping Guan *Pipile pipile*) Stakeholder Workshop. Participation included the WPA and *Birdlife*’s South America office, with facilitation by the Caribbean Natural Resource Institute. Kerrie took over as chair of the PSG in September 2010. At this time, Kerrie was also working on her MPhil study of the Pawi with Dr Adrian Hailey.

In July 2010 the PSG hosted a Pawi Grant Proposal Writing Workshop funded by *Birdlife* under their Global Preventing Extinctions Programme (facilitated by Guardian Life Wildlife Trust as the PSG still did not have a bank account). In 2011 there was a launch at the Guardian Life Wildlife Trust of the species recovery strategy. After 2011, we (HN/ED-N) did not have many details of the activities of the PSG, except during 2012 where copied into communications from *Birdlife* requesting that the PSG provide reports.

As for research on the Pawi at present (late 2021), we are aware of work initiated by Dr Mark Hulme who has taken up a lectureship at UWI in life sciences; he has accepted a PhD student Lynelle Bonaparte, who will be using acoustic monitoring of the Pawi.

HN/E-DN 2021

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**JEC/MEC 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022**