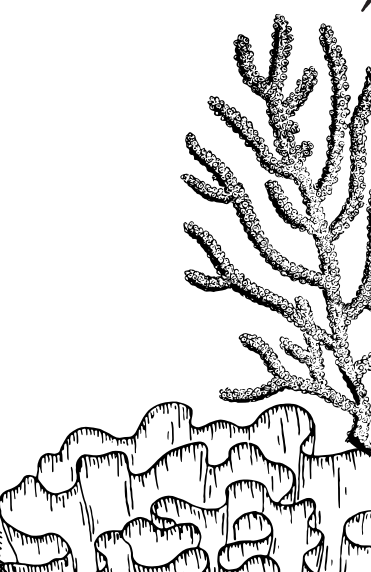


ST. CROIX FLORA & FAUNA CHECKLIST

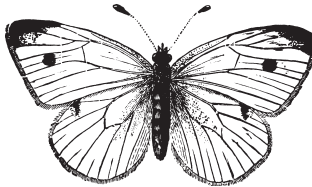
SELF-GUIDED ISLAND-WIDE SCAVENGER HUNT



This book belongs to:



Your name



Your mailing address

Your phone number

Your email address

Introduction



This scavenger hunt was designed to inspire you to go outside and explore the natural beauty of St. Croix while learning about the local flora and fauna. This booklet is for all ages and all experience levels. Whether you're a newbie or an expert— anyone can join in on the fun.

Not only will this booklet familiarize you with the plants and animals that live on St. Croix, your observations will contribute to science and conservation. The species that you find and record will help the scientific community collect data about the biodiversity of St. Croix. Each time you see and record a listed item in this booklet, you are supporting efforts to conserve our unique island!

We hope that you enjoy all the beauty St. Croix has to offer while participating in this island-wide scavenger hunt. May nature inspire you as it has inspired the collaborators of this book.



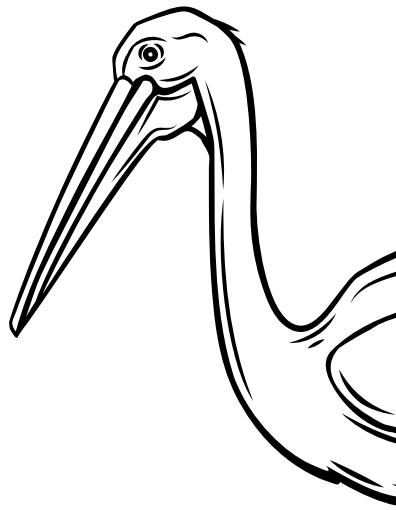
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How to use this booklet

When you find one of the listed species, you should :

1

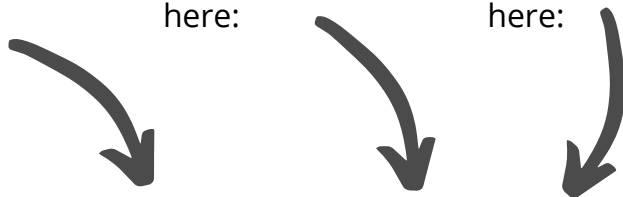
Record how many of that species you saw here:

2

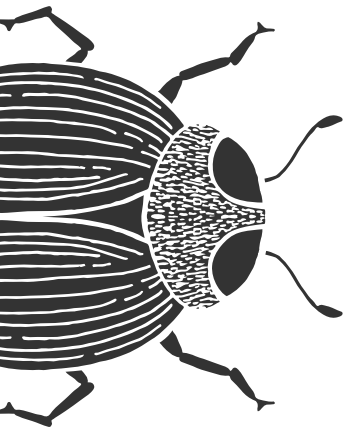
Record where you saw it on island here:

3

Record the time of day and the date you saw it here:



Classification	#	Location	Time & Date
Common species name			
<i>Scientific name</i>			



The goal is to find as many species as you can and to write them down in this manner as you go. You don't have to go in order, and there is no rush to finish ahead of the deadline. This booklet can live in your backpack, purse, or car so that you are always ready to record what you see.

You should also:

Submit your booklet before Earth Day 2022 (April 22nd 2022). You can mail or drop off your booklet at one of the following locations:

St. Croix Environmental Association

5032 Anchor Way, Suite 4 Christiansted, VI 00820

OR

St. Croix East End Marine Park

5005 Estate Great Pond, Christiansted 00820

OR

**DPNR - Division of Fish and Wildlife, 45 Mars Hill,
Frederiksted, 00840**

Double-check that you have provided your **name, phone number and return mailing address** inside the cover page. The team at SEA and EEMP will record your results into a database, and then we will return your booklet to you along with a certificate of completion. You **do not** have to find every species for your observations to count.



Add species to the blank pages in the back of the book if you see anything that is not on the checklist. However, they will not be added towards your final count unless you have pictures!

Be safe and observant when outdoors. Do not trespass on private property and practice common sense when searching for species. If snorkeling or in isolated areas, do not go alone and go with people you trust.

Be honest and truthful when filling in observations so we can collect accurate data.

Utilize other resources such as wildlife books, the internet and applications such as eBird and iNaturalist on your mobile device (if you have one) to help you identify species. See next page for more information on iNaturalist.

Be a good citizen and respect the natural world. Do not disturb or bother wildlife, and always observe from a safe distance. Follow the motto: take only pictures, leave only footprints.

Join us for upcoming events. Reach out for more information.

East End Marine Park

Email: friends.stxeemp@gmail.com
Follow us @friends.stxeemp

Stx Environmental Association

Email: info.atsea@gmail.com
Follow us @ stxsea
stxenvironmental.org

Contact us with any questions or concerns :

Phone: 340-773-1989 Email: stxbioblitz@gmail.com

Other helpful resources:



iNaturalist – The iNaturalist app is a great tool for recording the plants and animals that you see in St. Croix and around the world. You don't have to be able to identify everything; the community will contribute suggestions to help you out. Just take a picture, add your location, and the date of your observation. You can also contribute to projects – we recommend that you contribute your observations to the St. Croix Bioblitz project.



Seek – Seek is made by iNaturalist, but is intended for people (especially children) that want the experience of learning about and identifying flora and fauna, but want to keep their observations and location private.

Key Symbols & Definitions:

Level of difficulty:

- Easy:** * abundant on island, is relatively easy to find and identify
- Medium:** ** less common, harder to find or restricted to specific habitats yet easy to identify
- Hard:** *** Species that are harder to find due to rarity, cryptic in nature, migratory or restricted to specific geographic areas (but still possible!)

Common & Scientific Names

St. Croix Agave  The common name
(*Agave eggersiana*)  The scientific name

Why do species have multiple names?

Common names for species are used in normal everyday conversation and vary among regions and languages. Scientific names act as a universal naming system to avoid confusion between differing nationalities and languages. There are two parts to a scientific name: the genus and the species

Key Definitions:

Migratory: species that move from one habitat to another temporarily, usually in a regular annual pattern. An example of this is birds flying south for winter.

Introduced: a plant or animal that is brought by humans to an area in which it is not native, either purposefully or on accident.

Invasive: Invasive species are introduced species that cause environmental damage. Not all introduced species are invasive.

Endangered: a species of animal or plant that is at risk of extinction.

Endemic: a species that is native and restricted to a specific geographic region. For example, the St. Croix Agave is only found on St. Croix.

Native: a species is native if it originated in its location naturally and without the involvement of human activity or intervention.

Cryptic species: a group of species that are very difficult to distinguish from one another.

Biodiversity: is the shortened form of two words "biological" and "diversity". It refers to all the variety of life that can be found on Earth (plants, animals, fungi and microorganisms) as well as to the communities that they form and the habitats in which they live.

Invertebrates: an animal lacking a backbone. An animal with a backbone is called a vertebrate. About 95% of animal species are invertebrates. Some examples include worms, insects, crabs, jellyfish, snails, and sponges.

Buck Island Reef National Monument



Check out these hotspots:



Marine Life



Amphibians



Mammals



Plants



Reptiles



Birds



Insects

1 Rainforest



2 Dorsch Beach



3 Sandy Point NWR



4 St. George Botanical Gardens



5 UVI Wetlands



6 Salt River Ecological Preserve



7 Hotel on the Cay



8 Altona Lagoon



9 Southgate Coastal Reserve



10 Buck Island



11 Great Pond

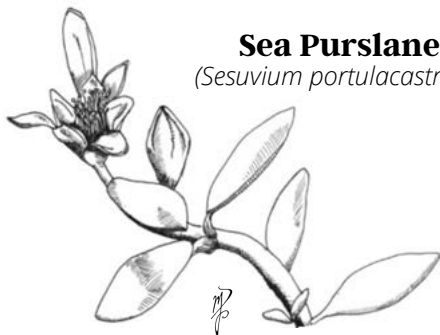


12 Jack & Issacs Bay



Vegetation

Coastal Vegetation	#	Location	Time & Date
Sea Lavender ** <i>Argusia gnaphalodes</i>			
Sea Purslane * <i>Sesuvium portulacastrum</i>			
Bay Cedar ** <i>Suriana maritima</i>			
Beach morning glory * <i>Ipomea pes-caprae</i>			
Sandy Point Orchid *** <i>Psychilis macconnelia</i>			
Seagrape * <i>Coccoloba uvifera</i>			
Seaside Maho * <i>Thespesia populnea</i>			
Saltwort *** <i>Salicornia bigelovii</i>			
Manchineel ** <i>Hippomane mancinella</i>			



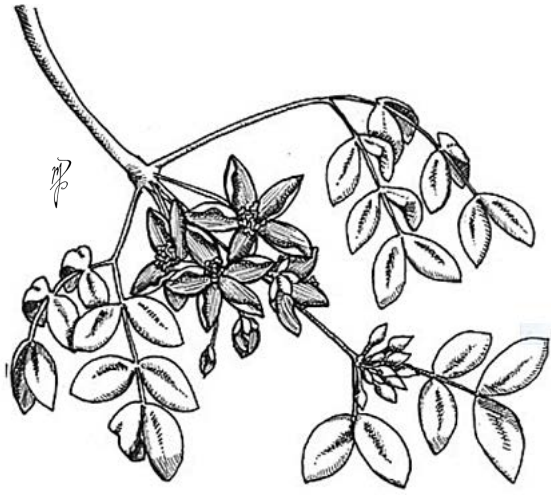
Sea Purslane
(*Sesuvium portulacastrum*)

Sea Purslane is most often found in tidal flats and marshes. It is a small succulent with purple flowers that grows rapidly. The plant has been used for pickling and salad creations.

Disclaimer: do not try to eat plants that you cannot identify!

Mangrove Forest	#	Location	Time & Date
Red Mangrove * <i>Rhizophora mangle</i>			
White Mangrove * <i>Laguncularia racemosa</i>			
Black Mangrove * <i>Avicennia germinans</i>			
Buttonwood ** <i>Conocarpus erectus</i>			
Tropical Dry Forest	#	Location	Time & Date
“Monkey No Climb” ** SandBox Tree <i>Hura crepitans</i>			
Baobab ** <i>Adansonia digitata</i>			
Turpentine Tree ** <i>Bursera simaruba</i>			
Kapok Tree ** <i>Ceiba pentandra</i>			
Water Mampoo *** <i>Pisonia subcordata</i>			
Calabash/Gobi ** <i>Crescentia cujete</i>			
Neem * <i>Azadirachta indica</i>		(<i>invasive</i>)	
Autograph tree ** <i>Clusia rosea</i>			
Mahogany * <i>Swietenia spp.</i>			

Tropical Dry Forest

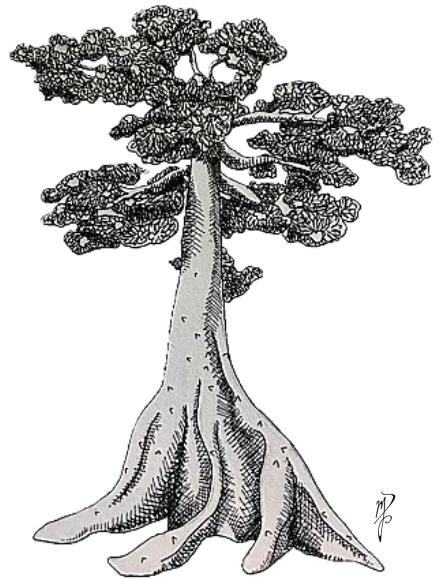


Lignum Vitae
(*Guaiacum officinale*)

Lignum Vitae, indigenous to the island, once covered St. Croix and Buck Island until it was overharvested for building boats. Its wood is the densest in the world, even so that it will sink in freshwater. However, what makes Lignum Vitae lumber so desirable for boat making is its oily resin. This self-lubrication makes the wood almost indestructible in the harshest of environments- such as the ocean.



Mahogany
(*Swietenia spp.*)



Kapok Tree
(*Ceiba pentandra*)

Hint: Check out the old Kapok Tree in the Frederiksted playground.

Tropical Dry Forest	#	Location	Time & Date
Lignum Vitae *** <i>Guaiacum officinale</i>			
Tibbet * <i>Albizia lebeck</i>			
Flamboyant * <i>Delonix regia</i>			
African Tulip Tree ** (invasive) <i>Spathodea campanulata</i>			
Pink poui ** <i>Tabebuia heterophylla</i>			
West Indian Frangipani * <i>Plumeria alba</i>			
White Manjack * <i>Cordia alba</i>			
Common Bamboo** (invasive) <i>Bambusa vulgaris</i>			
Orange Manjack ** <i>Cordia rickseckeri</i>			
Bread & Cheese ** <i>Pithecellobium unguis-cati</i>			
Bushes & Shrubs	#	Location	Time & Date
Casha (Sweet Acacia) * <i>Vachellia farnesiana</i> (invasive)			
Tan-tan * (invasive) <i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>			
Island Cotton ** <i>Gossypium barbadense</i>			

Bushes & Shrubs	#	Location	Time & Date
Island Sage ** <i>Lantana involucrata</i>			
Sweet Scent ** <i>Pluchea odorata</i>			
Giant Milkweed *** (invasive) <i>Calotropis gigantea</i>			
Ginger Thomas * (invasive) <i>Tecoma stans</i>			
Bougainvillea * <i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i>			
Hibiscus * <i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>			
Spider Lily * <i>Hymenocallis caribaea</i>			
Snake Plant/ Mother-in-Law * <i>Dracaena trifasciata</i> (invasive)			
Garden Croton * <i>Codiaeum variegatum</i>			
Vines	#	Location	Time & Date
Limber Caper ** <i>Capparis flexuosa</i>			
Rubber Vine * (invasive) <i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i>			
Dodder Vine * (invasive) <i>Cuscuta americana</i>			
Coral Vine * (invasive) <i>Antigonon leptopus</i>			

St. Croix Agave

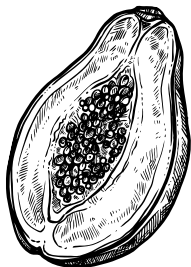
(*Agave Eggersiana*)



Did you know that this species of agave *only* exists on St. Croix? Similar to other agaves, it takes 10-15 years to reproduce, and then dies shortly after. This species is currently listed as federally and locally endangered; however several organizations are working together on island to save this unique plant.

Grasses	#	Location	Time & Date
Lemon Grass * <i>Cymbopogon citrates</i>			
Guinea Grass * <i>Panicum maximum</i> (invasive)			
Cactuses & Succulents	#	Location	Time & Date
St.Croix Agave * <i>Agave eggersiana</i> (endemic)			
Aloe * <i>Aloe vera</i>			
Pipe Organ Cactus ** <i>Cephalocereus royenii</i>			
Prickly Pear * <i>Opuntia spp.</i>			
Night Blooming Cereus * <i>Selenicereus grandiflorus</i>			

Papaya: A Pioneer Species



Pioneer species are the first to become established after disturbances such as natural disasters. After Hurricane Maria in 2017, papaya trees were some of the first trees to grow and were found nearly everywhere on the island.

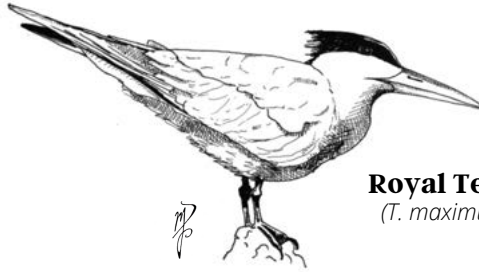
Fruit Trees	#	Location	Time & Date
Genip Tree * <i>Meliococcus bijugatus</i> (invasive)			
Tamarind Tree * <i>Tamarindus indica</i>			
Papaya * <i>Carica spp.</i>			
Avocado * <i>Persea americana</i>			
Soursop * <i>Annona muricata</i>			
Jackfruit ** <i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i>			
Breadfruit * <i>Artocarpus altilis</i>			
Ackee ** <i>Blighia sapida</i>			
Banana tree * <i>Musa spp.</i>			
Noni * <i>Morinda citrifolia</i>			
Mango Tree * <i>Mangifera indica</i>			
Coconut Tree * <i>Cocos spp.</i>			

Birds

Fun Fact: Migratory shorebirds like sanderlings, short billed dowitchers, plovers and sandpipers have the ability to restructure their organs in preparation for long migrations by shrinking the stomach and enlarging the heart and lungs. This allows them to maximize their oxygen intake and circulation.

Seabirds	#	Location	Time & Date
Brown Pelican * <i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>			
Magnificent Frigatebird * <i>Fregata magnificens</i>			
Laughing Gull *** <i>Larus atricilla</i>			
Brown Booby *** <i>Sula leucogaster</i>			
Royal Terns * <i>Thalasseus maximus</i>			
Shorebirds	#	Location	Time & Date
Wilson's Plover ** <i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>			
Killdeer ** <i>Charadrius vociferus</i>			
Semipalmated Sandpiper * <i>Calidris pusilla</i>			
Spotted Sandpiper ** <i>Actitis macularia</i>			

Seabirds, Shorebirds & Waders

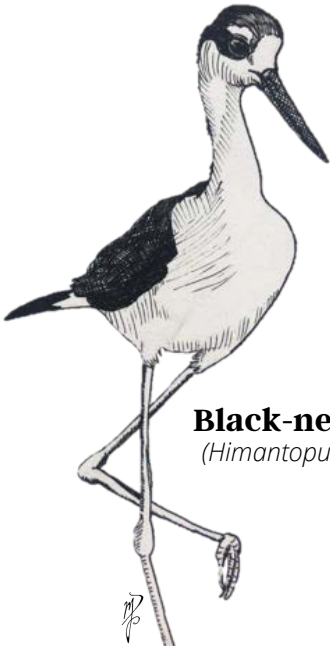
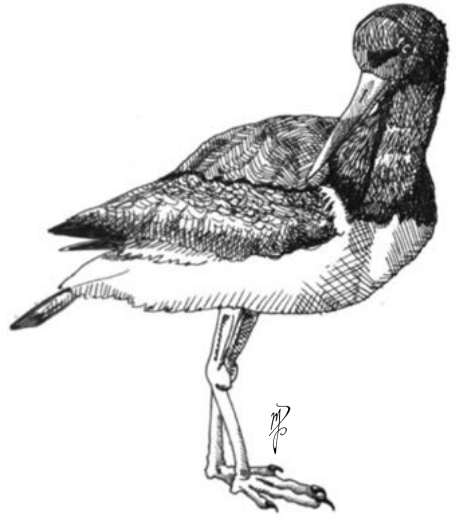


Royal Tern
(*T. maximus*)

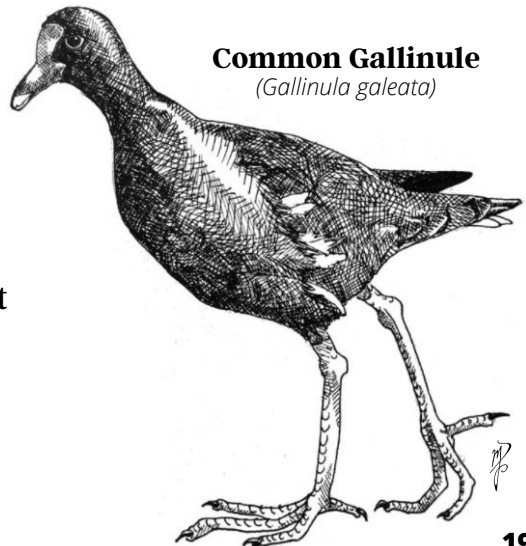
White Cheeked Pintail
(*Anas bahamensis*)



American Oystercatcher
(*Haematopus palliatus*)



Black-necked Stilt
(*Himantopus mexicanus*)



Common Gallinule
(*Gallinula galeata*)

Shorebirds	#	Location	Time & Date
Sanderling *** <i>Calidris alba</i>			
Short Billed Dowitcher ** <i>Limnodromus griseus</i>			
Whimbrel ** <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>			
Ruddy Turnstone ** <i>Arenaria interpres</i>			
Yellow-Crowned Night Heron * <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>			
Little Blue Heron * <i>Egretta caerulea</i>			
Green Heron ** <i>Butorides virescens</i>			
Great Blue Heron ** <i>Ardea herodias</i>			
Great Egret * <i>Ardea alba</i>			
Cattle Egret * <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>			
American Oystercatcher *** <i>Haematopus palliatus</i>			
Black-necked stilt ** <i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>			
American Coot ** <i>Fulica americana</i>			
Common Gallinule (Moorhen)** <i>Gallinula galeata</i>			
White Cheeked Pintail ** <i>Anas bahamensis</i>			

Smooth-billed Ani

(*Crotophaga ani*)

The smooth-billed ani is a "zygodactyl"— meaning that each foot has two toes pointing forward and two pointing back

Although sometimes mistaken as a large songbird, the smooth-billed ani is closely related to cuckoos and roadrunners. A communal bird, it travels and breeds in groups. When nesting, the females lay their eggs in one shared nest, and all of the group's members take turns caring for the nest and hatchlings.



American Kestrel

(*Falco sparverius*)

The American kestrel is the second smallest falcon in the world, with an average wingspan of just 23 inches (58 cm). A bird of prey, the kestrel is most often found perched high on telephone lines, open branches, and fence posts tracking its next meal.

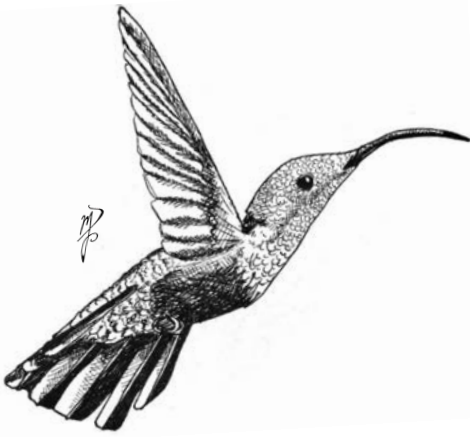


Belted Kingfisher

(*Ceryle alcyon*)



Raptors "Birds of Prey"	#	Location	Time & Date
Osprey *** <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			
American Kestrel * <i>Falco sparverius</i>			
Red-Tailed Hawk "Chicken Hawk" ** <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>			
Landbirds	#	Location	Time & Date
Yellow Warbler ** <i>Dendroica petechia</i>			
Blackpoll warbler *** <i>Setophaga striata</i>			
Barn Swallow ** <i>Hirundo rustica</i>			
Gray Kingbird * <i>Tyrannus dominicensis</i>			
Pearly Eyed Thrasher * <i>Argusia gnaphalodes</i>			
Belted Kingfisher ** <i>Ceryle alcyon</i>			
Smooth-billed Ani * <i>Crotophaga ani</i>			



Green-throated Carib
(*Eulampis holoserceus*)



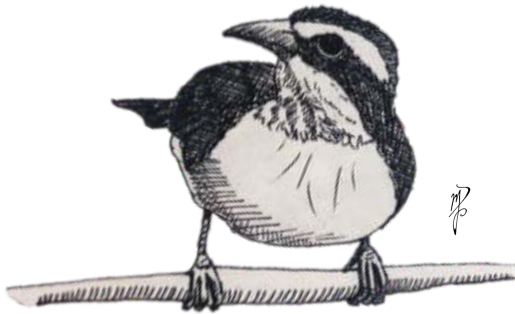
The Green-throated carib is much larger than the Antillean crested, and has a bright green throat and a blue and black chest



Antillean Crested Hummingbird
(*Orthorhynchus cristatus*)



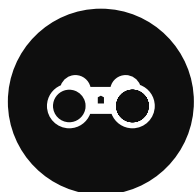
The Antillean Crested hummingbird is the smallest hummingbird in the Virgin Islands. Only the males have the feathered forehead crest



Bananaquit
(*Coereba flaveola*)

The bananaquit is the official bird of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Similar to hummingbirds, its main source of food is flower nectar. Unlike hummingbirds, it cannot hover so it must perch on a branch nearby to extract its food. You might even spot a bananaquit feeding on nectar perched upside down!

Landbirds	#	Location	Time & Date
Antillean Crested Hummingbird <i>Orthorhynchus cristatus</i> *			
Green-throated Carib * <i>Eulampis holoserceus</i>			
Bananaquit * <i>Coereba flaveola</i>			
Black-faced Grassquit * <i>Tiaris bicolor</i>			
Northern parula *** <i>Setophaga americana</i>			
Pigeons & Doves	#	Location	Time & Date
Scaley-naped Pigeon * <i>Patagioenas squamosa</i>			
Common Ground-Dove * <i>Columbina passerina</i>			
Zenaida Dove * <i>Zenaida aurita</i>			
White-Crowned Pigeon ** <i>Columba leucocephala</i>			
Domesticated	#	Location	Time & Date
Red Jungle Fowl * <i>Gallus gallus</i>			
Helmeted Guinea Fowl ** <i>Numida meleagris</i>			



Helpful Birding Hints

- Keep a pair of binoculars handy
- Be still and avoid making noise
- Be patient

Doves & Pigeons

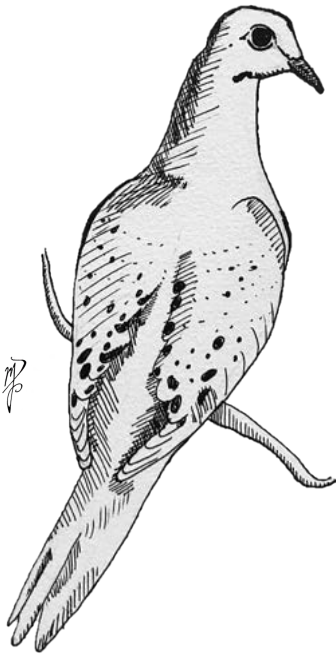
Doves and pigeons play an important part in supporting the natural environment. They are seed spreaders and pollinators, and can help restore vegetation after major disturbances such as hurricanes. They are also among the most common birds in the world and can be found on every continent except for Antarctica.

Scaley-naped Pigeon

(Patagioenas squamosa)

Zenaida Dove

(Zenaida aurita)



Point your phone camera here to learn more about what you can do to help birds after a hurricane!

Reptiles

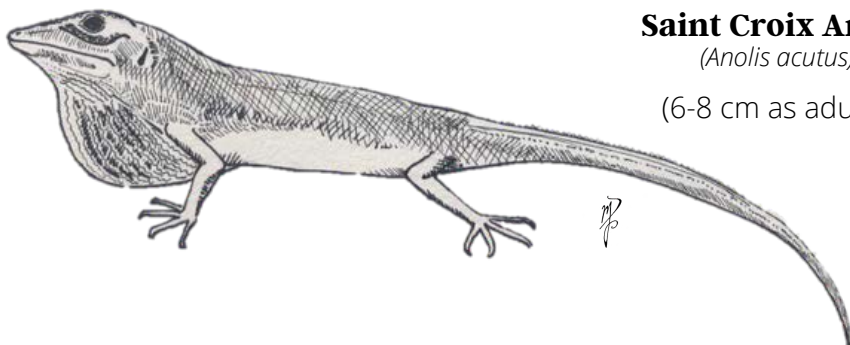
The St. Croix ground lizard is one of the rarest lizards in the world. It is an endemic species that was once common on the main island of St. Croix, but is now only found on the surrounding cays. It is often confused with the Puerto Rican ground lizard, which was introduced to St. Croix in the 1990s.



St. Croix Ground Lizard
(Pholidoscelis polops)
 (35-77 cm as adults)

Lizards	#	Location	Time & Date
St. Croix Ground Lizard *** <i>Pholidoscelis polops</i> (endemic)			
Puerto Rican Ground Lizard ** <i>Ameiva exsul</i> (invasive)			
St. Croix Anole * (endemic) <i>Anolis acutus</i>			
Green Iguana * (invasive) <i>Iguana iguana</i>			
Geckos	#	Location	Time & Date
Wood Slave * <i>Hemidactylus mabouia</i>			
Eye-spot Dwarf Gecko ** <i>Sphaerodactylus macrolepis</i>			
St. Croix Sphaero *** (endemic) <i>Sphaerodactylus beattyi</i>			

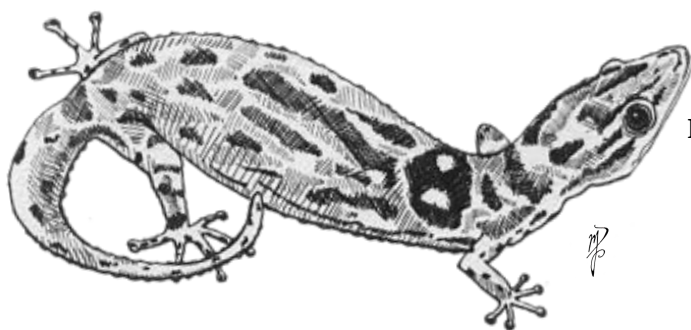
Reptiles



Saint Croix Anole

(*Anolis acutus*)

(6-8 cm as adults)



Eye-spot Dwarf Gecko

(*Sphaerodactylus macrolepis*)

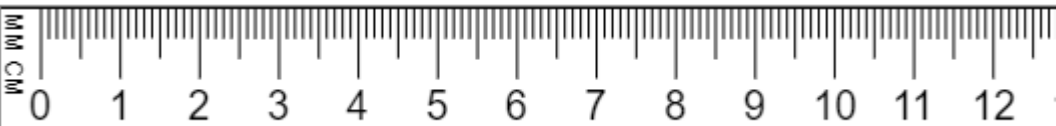
(3-6 cm as adults)



St. Croix Sphaero

(*Sphaerodactylus beattyi*)

(3.5-4 cm as adults)



Snakes	#	Location	Time & Date
Blind Snake *** <i>Typhlops richardii</i>			
Red Tailed Boa *** <i>Numida meleagris</i> (invasive)			
Sea Turtles	#	Location	Time & Date
Green Sea Turtle ** <i>Chelonia mydas</i>			
Hawksbill Sea Turtle ** <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>			

Amphibians

Tree Frogs	#	Location	Time & Date
Cuban Tree Frog * (invasive) <i>Osteopilus septentrionalis</i>			
Mute Coqui *** (endemic) <i>Eleutherodactylus lentus</i>			
Antillean Tree Frog *** <i>Eleutherodactylus antillensis</i>			
Puerto Rican Coqui *** <i>Eleutherodactylus coqui</i> (invasive)			
Ditch Frogs	#	Location	Time & Date
White-Lipped Frog ** <i>Leptodactylus albilabris</i>			
Toads	#	Location	Time & Date
Cane Toad ** (invasive) <i>Rhinella marina</i>			

Amphibians

At night, especially after rainfall, you can hear choirs of tree frogs singing. They use a series of clicks, trills and whistles to attract their mates.



Mute Coqui

(*Eluetherodactylus lentus*)

The mute coqui is an endangered species endemic to the US Virgin Islands. Despite its name, the mute coqui does vocalize, however, in lower tones and less frequently than other frogs.

Cane Toad

(*Rhinella marina*)

The cane toad was introduced to the Caribbean from South America to control populations of cane beetles that would damage sugar cane - hence the name cane toad. It is also the world's largest true toad! Growing up to 6 inches (15.2cm) long on average, the largest specimen measured was 9.4 inches (23.8cm) long.



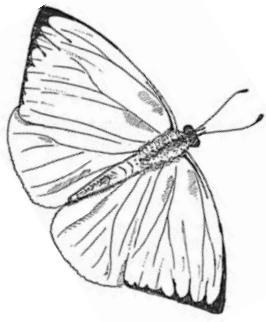
Cuban Tree Frog

(*Osteopilus septentrionalis*)

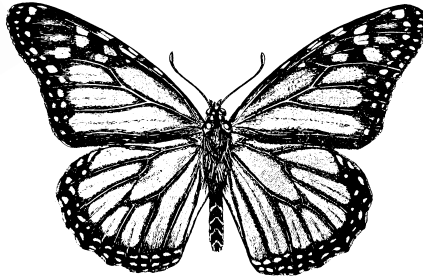
Cuban tree frogs are an invasive species here in the USVI. They aggressively out-compete and prey on indigenous species of treefrogs. Like many amphibians, they secrete a mucus that can irritate the eyes, skin and nose; so avoid contact if you see one!



Arthropods



Great Southern White Butterfly
(*Ascia monuste*)

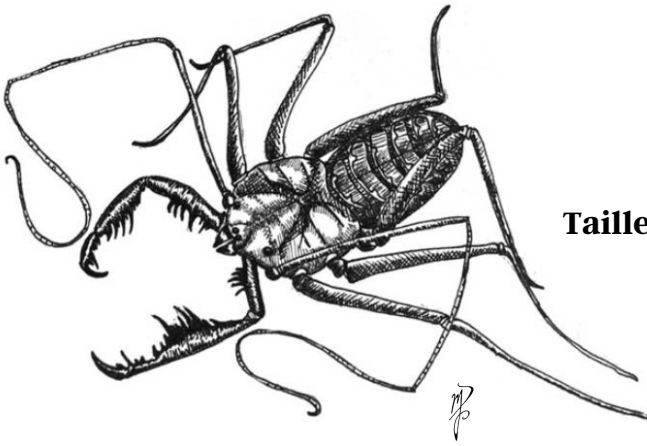


Monarch Butterfly
(*Danaus plexippus*)



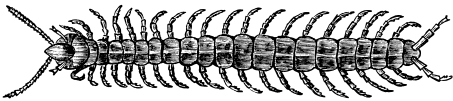
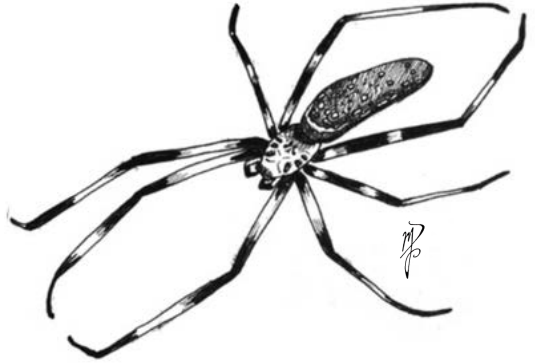
Cabbage White Butterfly
(*Pieris rapae*)

Butterflies & Caterpillars	#	Location	Time & Date
Gulf Fritillary * <i>Agraulis vanillae</i>			
Monarch Butterfly *** <i>Danaus plexippus</i>			
Cabbage White * <i>Pieris rapae</i>			
Great Southern White Butterfly * <i>Ascia monuste</i>			
West Indian Buckeye & Caterpillar <i>Junonia evarete</i> **			
Moths & Caterpillars	#	Location	Time & Date
Frangipani Caterpillar & Moth ** <i>Pseudosphinx tetrio</i>			
White-lined sphinx Caterpillar & Moth <i>Pseudosphinx tetrio</i> ***			
Bees & Wasps	#	Location	Time & Date
Honey Bee * <i>Apis spp.</i>			
Jack Spaniard * <i>Polistes crinitus</i>			

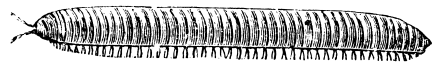


Tailless Whip Scorpion
(*Phyrnus sp.*)

Golden Orb Weaver
(*Trichonephila clavipes*)



Giant Caribbean Centipede
(*Scolopendra atlemans*)



Millipede "Gongolo"
(*Anadenobolus monilicornis*)

Helpful Hints:



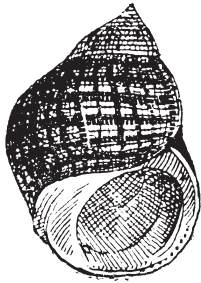
- Be extra careful when searching for insects
- Use a stick or wear gloves when searching through leaf litter
- Do not touch or pick up what you find (some can sting or hurt you)
- Observe from a safe distance



Point your phone camera here to learn more about what you can do to help bees after a hurricane!

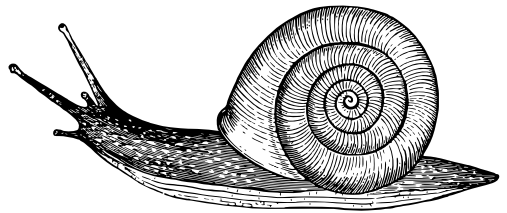
Millipedes & Centipedes	#	Location	Time & Date
Yellow-banded Millipede * <i>Anadenobolus monilicornis</i>			
Red Garden Millipede * <i>Trigoniulus corallinus</i>			
Puerto Rican Tree Millipede (black) *** <i>Rhinocricus arboreus</i>			
Giant Caribbean Centipede ** <i>Scolopendra altemans</i>			
Spiders & Scorpions	#	Location	Time & Date
Daddy Long Leg *** <i>Pholcidae spp.</i>			
Golden Orb Weaver ** <i>Trichonephila clavipes</i>			
Tailless Whip Scorpion *** <i>Phymus spp.</i>			
Insects	#	Location	Time & Date
Termite/ Termite Mound * <i>Nasutitermes spp.</i>			
Pill Bug ** <i>Venezillo culebrae</i>			
Stink Bug ** <i>Loxa viridis</i>			
Love Bugs (Cotton Stainer) * <i>Dysdercus andreae</i>			

Snails & Slugs



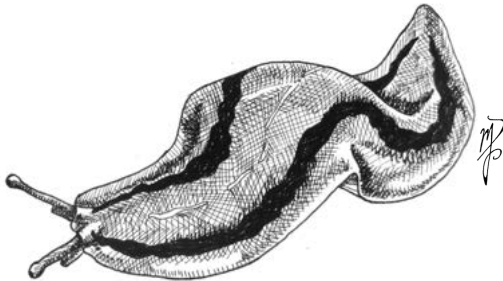
Example of a Periwinkle

Littorina sp.



Cuban Brown Snail

Zachrysia provisoria

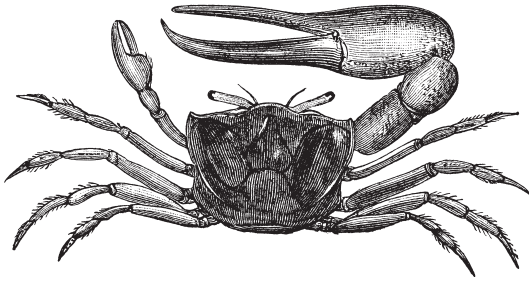


Dappled Leatherleaf Slug

(Leidyula kraussi)

Slugs & Snails	#	Location	Time & Date
Dappled Leatherleaf Slug ** <i>Leidyula kraussi</i>			
Cuban Brown Snail ** <i>Zachrysia provisoria</i>			
Coastal Snails & Whelks	#	Location	Time & Date
Mangrove Periwinkle *** <i>Littoraria angulifera</i>			
Beaded periwinkle *** <i>Cenchritis muricatus</i>			
West Indian Topshell "Whelk" * <i>Cittarium pica</i>			

Terrestrial Crustaceans

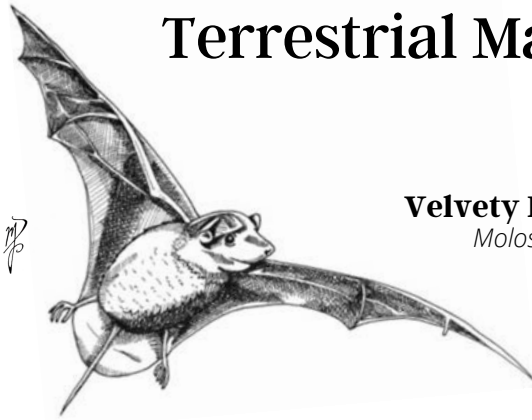


Fiddler Crab
(*Uca spp.*)

Have you ever noticed all of the holes along mud flats and mangrove marshes? These are fiddler crab holes. Fiddler crabs use their large claw to attract mates and to protect their burrows. If their claw gets damaged they are able to grow a new one. Fiddler crabs have gills and a basic lung that allows them to live both underwater and on land. They are also an important food source for migrating and resident shorebirds.

Terrestrial Crustaceans	#	Location	Time & Date
Blue Land Crab /Great Land Crab <i>Cardisoma guanhumi</i> *			
Caribbean Land Hermit Crab * <i>Coenobita clypeatus</i>			
Fiddler Crab ** <i>Uca spp.</i>			
Mangrove Tree Crab * <i>Aratus pisonii</i>			
Atlantic Ghost Crab * <i>Ocypode quadrata</i>			
Sally Lightfoot Crab ** <i>Grapsus grapsus</i>			

Terrestrial Mammals



Velvety Free-tailed Bat
Molossus molossus

Myth buster: bats are not blind and they are not to be feared! Bats are the only terrestrial mammals native to the U.S. Virgin Islands and they are extremely important for pollinating our fruit trees and controlling pests. Certain bats love to eat pesky insects such as mosquitoes; one bat can consume up to 2000 mosquitoes in a single night!

Terrestrial Mammals	#	Location	Time & Date
Velvety Free-tailed Bat ** <i>Molossus molossus</i>			
Antillean Fruit-Eating Bat ** <i>Brachyphylla cavernarum</i>			
Jamaican Fruit Eating Bat ** <i>Artibeus jamaicensis</i>			
White-Tailed Deer * (invasive) <i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>			
Mongoose * (invasive) <i>Herpestes javanicus</i>			
Senepol Cattle * (native breed) <i>Bos taurus</i>			
Holstein Cattle ** <i>Bos taurus taurus</i>			

Difficulty to find (Easy*, Medium**, Hard ***)

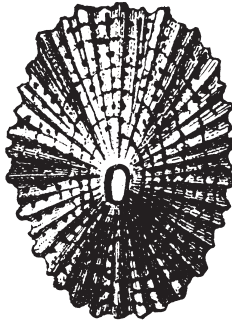


Point your phone camera here to learn more about what you can do to help bats after a hurricane!

Marine Species

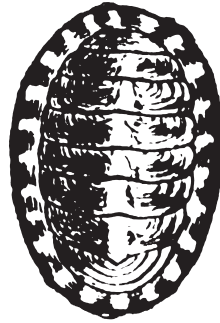
Limpet

(*Patellogastropoda spp.*)



Chiton

(*Amphinuera spp.*)

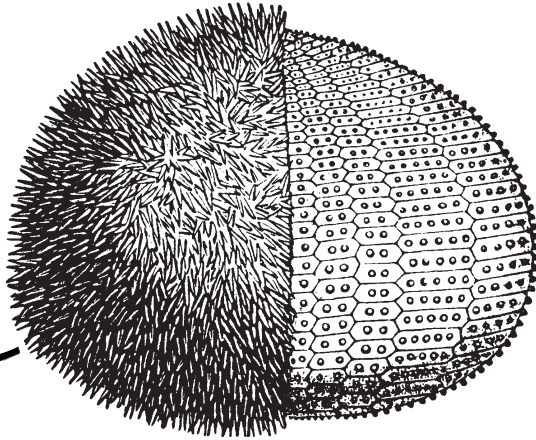


Invertebrates

Sea Urchins & Starfish	#	Location	Time & Date
Long-spined Sea Urchin * <i>Diadema antillarum</i>			
West Indian Sea Egg * <i>Tripneustes ventricosus</i>			
Red Cushion Sea Star * <i>Oreaster reticulatus</i>			
Sea Anemones & Sea Cucumbers	#	Location	Time & Date
Donkey Dung Sea cucumber *** <i>Holothuria mexicana</i>			
Giant Caribbean Sea anemone <i>Condylactis gigantea</i> **			
Molluscs	#	Location	Time & Date
Chiton * <i>Amphineura spp.</i>			
Limpet * <i>Patellogastropoda spp.</i>			
Queen Conch ** <i>Strombus gigas</i>			
Caribbean Reef Squid *** <i>Sepioteuthis sepioidea</i>			

Marine Invertebrates

When alive, a sea urchin will be covered in spines



The test or shell that is left behind when the urchin dies

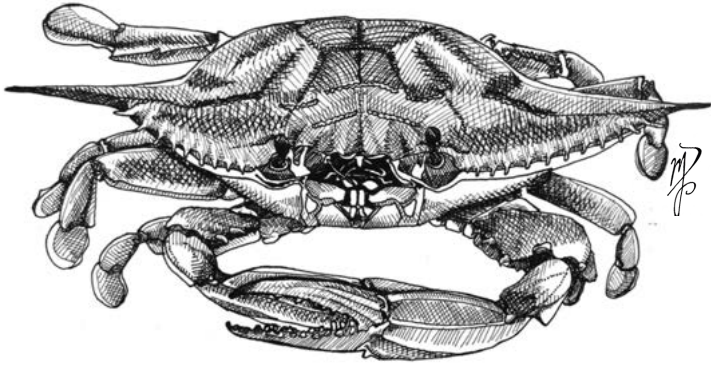
West Indian Sea Egg
(*Eluetherodactylus lentus*)



Caribbean Queen Conch
(*Strombus gigas*)

The Queen Conch is one of the most iconic species for the US Virgin Islands. Its shell was used as a horn to blow the "Call of Freedom" signifying the end of slavery in the region; and its meat has become a trademark for a variety of traditional Caribbean dishes. Below the ocean's surface, conch rest in beds of seagrass feeding on algae keeping the ecosystem in balance. Queen conch can live up to 30yrs, beginning reproduction at 3-4yrs of age. Due to their popularity and slow reproduction, their populations are in decline. To help protect this symbolic species, be sure to leave conch in their place when spotted, and follow size and season regulations for harvesting.

During open season (November 1st- May 31st) you are only allowed to take conch that are 9 inches in length. Conch season is closed June 1st- October 31st.



Atlantic Blue Crab

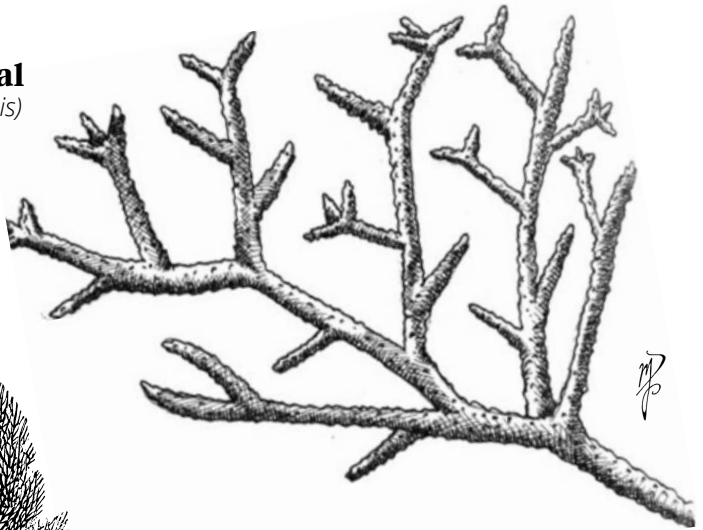
Callinectes sapidus

Marine Crustaceans	#	Location	Time &
Atlantic Blue Crab ** <i>Callinectes sapidus</i>			
Caribbean Spiny Lobster ** <i>Panulirus argus</i>			
Corals	#	Location	Time &
Brain Coral * <i>Psuedodiploria & Diploria spp.</i>			
Star Coral * <i>Orbicella & Montastrea spp.</i>			
Finger Coral * <i>Porites spp.</i>			
Elkhorn Coral ** <i>Acropora palmata</i>			
Staghorn Coral ** <i>Acropora cervicomis</i>			
Pillar coral *** <i>Dendrogyra cylindrus</i>			
Fire corals * <i>Millepora spp..</i>			
Common Sea fan * <i>Gorgonia ventalina</i>			

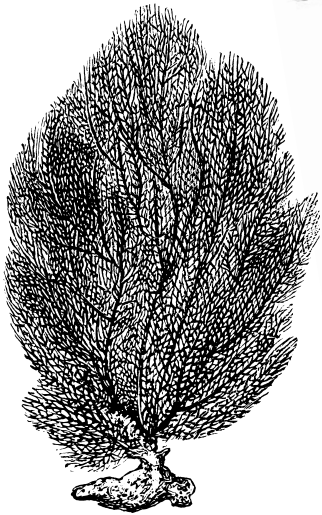
Corals

Staghorn Coral

(Acropora cervicornis)



Did you know: *Most large coral reef structures are thousands of years old*



Common Sea fan

(Gorgonia ventalina)

Note: Not a reef-building coral, is a soft coral.

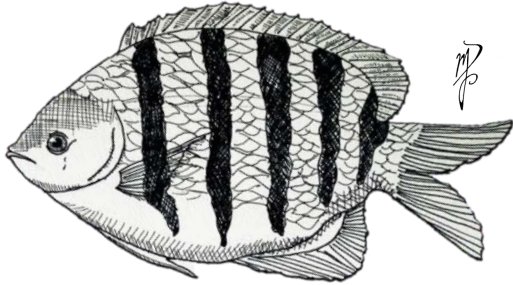
Coral reefs are incredibly diverse ecosystems, supporting around 1/4 of the ocean's creatures. Reef structures are created by small, translucent coral polyps (related to jellyfish) which contain a photosynthesizing algae called zooxanthellae (which gives the coral its color). The zooxanthellae provide food for the coral polyp, while the polyp provides a safe home for the algae.



Coral reefs also support humans and the planet in many ways. They protect coasts from strong storm surge, provide habitat for fish, hold the key to future medical discoveries, and are important for economies across the world.

Marine Fish

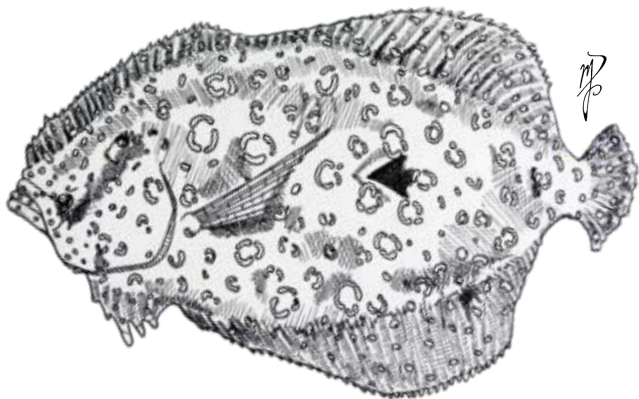
Sergeant Major
(*Abudefduf saxatilis*)

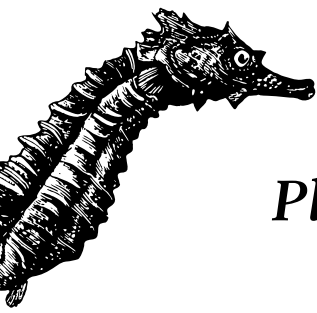


Reef Fish	#	Location	Time & Date
Parrotfish * <i>Scarus & Sparisoma spp.</i>			
Squirrelfish * <i>Holocentrus spp.</i>			
Damselfish * <i>Stegastes spp.</i>			
Foureye butterflyfish ** <i>Chaetodon capistratus</i>			
Blue-striped grunt ** <i>Haemulon sciurus</i>			
Blue tang * <i>Acanthurus coeruleus</i>			
Sergeant Major * <i>Abudefduf saxatilis</i>			
Yellowtail snapper ** <i>Ocyurus chrysurus</i>			
Porcupinefish *** <i>Diodontidae</i>			
Scrawled Filefish *** <i>Aluterus scriptus</i>			
Queen Angelfish ** <i>Holocanthus ciliaris</i>			

Reef Fish	#	Location	Time & Date
Smooth Trunkfish ** <i>Rhinesomus triqueter</i>			
Cowfish ** <i>Acanthostracion spp.</i>			
Trumpetfish ** <i>Aulostomus spp.</i>			
Peacock flounder *** <i>Bothus mancus</i>			
Great Barracuda * <i>Sphyraena barracuda</i>			
Lionfish ** (invasive) <i>Pterois spp.</i>			
Sharks & Rays	#	Location	Time & Date
Southern Stingray * <i>Dasyatis americana</i>			
Spotted Eagle Ray ** <i>Aetobatus narinari</i>			
Nurse shark ** <i>Ginglymostoma cirratum</i>			
Reef shark *** <i>Carcharhinus perezii</i>			

Peacock Flounder
(*Bothus mancus*)





Please Don't forget...

To submit your booklet before Earth Day 2022 (April 22nd, 2022) by mailing or dropping off your booklet at one of the following locations:



St. Croix Environmental Association

5032 Anchor Way, Suite 4
Christiansted, VI 00820

St. Croix East End Marine Park

5005 Estate Great Pond
Christiansted, VI 00820

Department of Planning & Natural Resources- West

Division of Fish and Wildlife,
45 Mars Hill, Frederiksted, VI 00840

On the inside cover page, please double-check that you have provided your:

- 1) Name**
- 2) Phone number**
- 3) Return mailing address**

After we have recorded your results, we will return your booklet to you along with the certificate level that you have earned. Please see next page for certificate levels.

Certificate Levels



Listed below are the various certificates you can earn. In order to receive one of these certificates, you must have found the minimum number of species listed for each level:

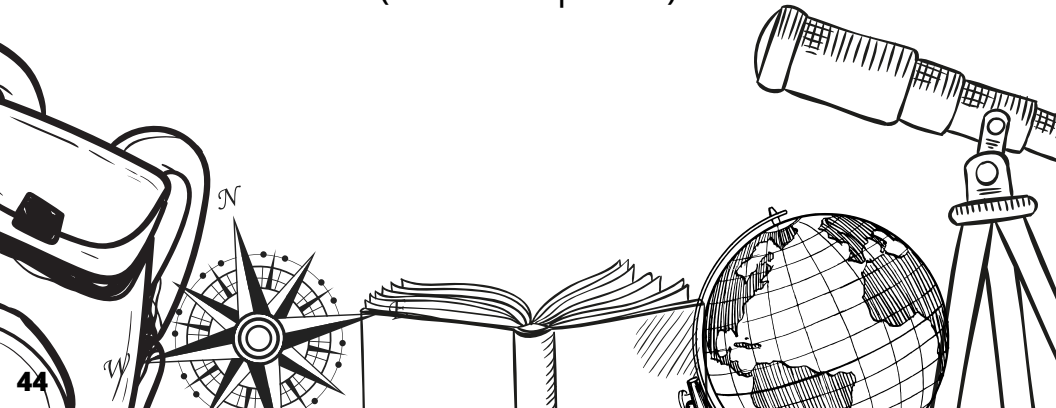
"Inquisitive Iguana"
(15-25 species)

"Novice Naturalist"
(26-70 species)

"Blooming Biologist"
(71-115 species)

"Expert Explorer"
(116-160 species)

"Daring Darwin"
(161-206 species)



Acknowledgements

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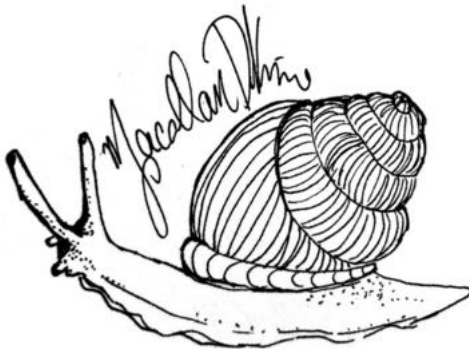
(STXEEMP Coordinator)



Illustrations

Macallan Durkin

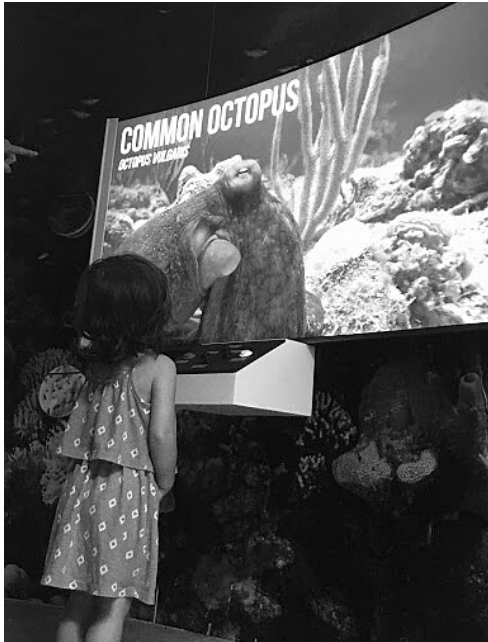
rmacallandurkin@gmail.com



Come and visit us!



The **Southgate Coastal Reserve** is a 101 acre nature reserve at Chenay Bay that is managed by the St. Croix Environmental Association (SEA). A network of trails winds through grasslands, mangroves, and a recovering tropical dry forest. At the end of one trail is a salt pond that hosts a wide diversity of resident and migratory birds. Visitors can view the pond through a bird blind (*see photo, left*). In addition, three species of endangered sea turtles nest on the long sandy beach at Southgate.



Join us at the **St. Croix East End Marine Park's Visitors Center**. This new facility offers interactive learning experiences for visitors of all ages. Equipped with touch screen LCD displays, games, vibrant educational plaques, and an 'underwater' walkthrough, the center is a great way to learn about St. Croix's marine natural resources and habitats. The Visitors Center is surrounded by a large open field great for kite flying, picnic tables and beach access are also available.

For more information about
upcoming events, volunteering
opportunities and more:

St. Croix Environmental Association



Email: info.atsea@gmail.com

Web: stxenvironmental.org

Phone: (340) 773-1989



@STXSEA

St. Croix East End Marine Park



Email: friends.stxeemp@gmail.com

Phone: (340) 718-3367



@FRIENDS.STXEEMP

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