

OTHER FAUNA...



Green Lizard
Anolis garmani

Green lizards mainly inhabit forested areas where they frequently descend to the ground to devour large crickets and cockroaches. They are known for their rapid change of colour from green to almost black. It has been observed that these colour changes occur as they descend from trees to hide while others believe that this is an aggressive display when threatened.



Mongoose
Herpestes javanicus

Since the introduction of the mongoose to Jamaica around 1872, the mammal has spread to all parts of the island. Its natural food includes birds, snakes, lizards, and rats hence it has become a threat to many of the important fauna of the reserve.

This species is endemic to the Greater Antilles. They are nectar feeders and also feed on fruits and insects. Recent studies at the reserve have indicated that these bats feed on *Passiflora penduliflora* (Handsome Gal).



Greater Antillean long-tongued bat
Monophyllus redmani

Photo Credits:

- *Dragonflies and Damselflies of Northeast Ohio* (2002)
Larry Rosche
- *A Guide to the Birds of the West Indies* (1998)
Raffaele *et al.*
- *Birds of Jamaica* (1990)
Audrey Downer and Robert Sutton
- *Swallowtail Butterflies of the Americas* (1994)
Hamilton Tyler *et al.*
- *The Institute of Jamaica Collections*



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Fauna of



Mason River

INTRODUCTION

The Mason River Property is 202 acres. It is one of the few surviving areas of natural vegetation and is divided into three areas. There are 122 acres of permanently fenced reserve, 36 acres used as a 'control area' and 44 acres that are being used as farm land. The permanently fenced area was designated as a Game Sanctuary by the Natural Resources Conservation Authority in 1998 and prohibits bird shooting on the property, while the "control area" is left unprotected. The reserve contains a field station, the game warden's house and marked trails. Both local and visiting scientists use the field station. It also contains a small library that loans books to students in the area. Educational tours are conducted along the marked trails, which have areas of special interest highlighted and allow visitors to observe a realistic conservation demonstration.

OVERVIEW OF FAUNA

Present in the Mason River area are several species of fauna which range from birds, insects and crustacea to amphibians and reptiles. The insects represent the most diverse group of fauna. These include common butterflies such as the Jamaican Satyr, *Calisto zangis*, the Jamaican Zebra, *Heliconius charitonius simulator*, and Sulphur species that are often seen along the trails. At least 5 species of dragonflies (needle-cases) and 3 species of damselflies have so far been observed in the area. The Green Lizard, *Anolis garmani* and the Bush Lizard, *Anolis lineatopus* are common residents.

The property also has 59 species of birds. Six species are wetland birds while the others are land/terrestrial

birds. Of the 53 species of land birds 12 are endemic (only found in Jamaica).

BIRDS...



White Crowned Pigeon
Columba leucocephala

Historically the White Crowned Pigeon has been a popular bird with bird-shooters. It is frequently seen in the Game Sanctuary, which is used by this bird as a feeding and nesting ground.

The Vervain is an endemic sub-species and is common both within and outside the Game Sanctuary. It is the second smallest bird in the world with a maximum size of 2 inches (5 cm). It has a very loud erratic song for its small size. Like other humming birds, it is a nectar feeder, which helps to pollinate flowers.



Vervain Hummingbird
Mellisuga minima minima



Black-throated Blue Warbler
Dendroica caerulescens

This is a migrant bird that comes to Jamaica from North America in about late August and stays until April. It escapes the harsh winter in North America by living in our warmer climate. It usually announces its arrival by its sharp "Chip,chip,chip" call.

INSECTS...



Jamaican Zebra
Heliconius charitonius simulator

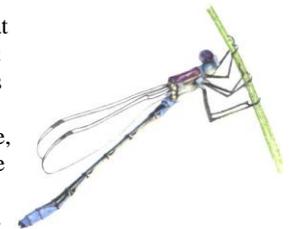
The zebra is found all over Jamaica and can be seen all year round. It exhibits a gentle but fearless flight due to its natural immunity of an unpleasant taste when attacked by birds and other predators. It is commonly seen along the trails.



Julia - *Dryas iulia delila*

This lovely orange-coloured butterfly is common in Jamaica and is attracted to many brightly coloured flowers. It is generally a forest butterfly and exhibits a swift and powerful flight pattern thereby making it difficult for butterfly enthusiasts and entomologists to catch.

Dragonflies are spectacular creatures that rank among the flashiest and fastest flying insects in the world while the damselflies exhibit grace, beauty and charm. These insects lay their eggs in and around water bodies hence the reserve provides ideal habitats for these creatures.



Damselfly
Order - Odonata