

# Editorial

Last month I had the chance of traveling on the Western Highway delivering *The Nature Observer*. As I drove along the rolling hills and saw the magnificent landscape I realized in a minute that indeed Belize is a wonderful place. The sun was bright and the birds were happily chirping away, as parrots flew over. And on the electricity lines I couldn't miss observing the majestic roadside hawks attentively watching for a meal.

One by one I stopped by the schools along the highway, like a sort of a mailman dropping the newspapers. And as I walked in the classrooms I could also appreciate the schoolchildren like you busily at work. Very attentive, very smart looking and very respectful. Certainly, we have great resources in this country. A beautiful environment. A beautiful people. We are indeed blessed!

Now as you continue your school year I would want to encourage you to maintain this beauty. You may be wondering how, right?

## CHALILLO DAM NOT A GOOD IDEA

As time passes more people are appearing to either support or disapprove of the Chalillo Dam. In the most recent event, the President of World Wildlife Fund, Mrs Kathryn Fuller spoke to many government officials and others in Belize about the serious problems which the Chalillo Dam may create in the country if it is constructed. If the dam is constructed, she said that not only will it seriously damage the natural environment in the Chiquibul but more importantly the people should know that this will cost very much and therefore the dam may not provide cheaper electricity for Belizeans.

According to Mrs Fuller, she has received reports from Mr Roger Sant who is the owner of the largest power company called AES, and

he has said that the study made on the dam is incomplete. And because more studies are needed, then no one should just go ahead and build the dam. In a meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister, Honourable John Briceño, Mr Sant told the Minister that so far the studies show that the dam will create more expensive electricity.

Once again the Government of Belize has said that on one has really decided if the dam will take place, but it is reported that the Company BEL/Fortis who will be responsible for the construction and care of the dam is already making arrangements to begin construction. BEL/Fortis believes that the Chalillo Dam makes sense and that it will bring many benefits to Belizeans.

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT TAKES PLACE

Every year birders from throughout Belize join their efforts for the Christmas Bird Count and this year was no exception. From

time the bird count helps them know if the number of birds are increasing or decreasing every year.

Every year as more forests are