

## Spiders pose no threat to agriculture

FRIDAY, 21 SEP 2012 03:00AM BY LOUELLA LOSINIO | VARIETY NEWS STAFF HITS: 334

RECENT scientific findings on the explosion of the spider population on Guam should not be a cause of concern for farmers, University of Guam entomologist Dr. Aubrey Moore assured.

According to Moore, there is good evidence that the eight-legged arachnids pose no threat to agriculture and the endemic species of insects on the island, at least for now.

Moore was reacting to the results of a study released by ecologists which concluded that Guam's jungles have as many as 40 times more spiders than are found on nearby islands like Saipan.

According to biologists from Rice University, the University of Washington and the

University of Guam, the results are some of the first to examine the indirect impact of the brown tree snake on Guam's ecosystem.

"Actually, because spiders eat insects, we don't consider spiders as pests. We see them as beneficial."

According to Moore, the spiders prey on insects that were part of the diet of the decimated bird population on Guam. He also confirmed that Guam has a bigger spider population in comparison to Saipan and Rota.

"What the spiders are doing is taking over some of the services that some of the birds used to provide. The birds used to eat a lot of insects but they are not around anymore. They are compensating. That's how nature adjusts itself," Moore explained.

Haldre Rogers, a Huxley Fellow in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Rice University and the lead author of the study, said: "You can't walk through the jungles on Guam without a stick in your hand to knock down the spider webs."

According to the study, "In some places, a dense fabric of webs fills gaps between trees in the jungle canopy."

The brown tree snake, an invasive species introduced to the island in the 1940s, reduced Guam's native bird species. According to the study, "Ten of 12 native bird species had been wiped out, and the last two live only in small areas protected by intense snake-trapping."

## Comments 题 🌵

#3 Paul Zerzan ff 2012-09-21 13:24 Ask the people of Hawaii (and the tourists to Hawaii) if the birds have value! They MOST certainly do. Replacing Hawaii's lost birds with introduced species was the only practical thing to do. **b** -2

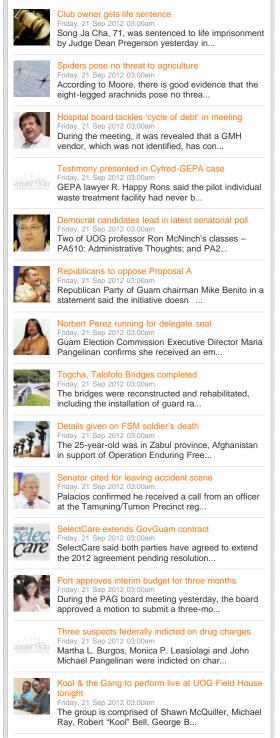
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Guam should follow Hawaii's example (we can no more return to the pre-snake ecosystem of Guam than we can return to the Age-of-the-Dinosaurs. The world has changed).

#2 JR Sablan 
2012-09-21 10:12
Quoting Paul Zerzan:
So instead of spending more money on snake "research" and the bad publicity it generates, why don't we bring in new "snake-proof" birds to Guam?
Birds from snake areas effectively defend their nests from snakes by jabbing at the snake's eyes with their beaks.
Guam's birds didn't so they are now extinct.
Hawaii lost all of its birds to Avian Malaria when mosquitoes came to the island 100 years ago. Hawaii is now home to numerous desirable but "non-native" species that were brought in and released.
Guam should do the same. The sooner the better.
iddioic comment. ask any one in conservation if there is value in hawaii's non-naitve birds...fix the problem, don't cover it up.

#1 Paul Zerzan 1 2012-09-21 07:30 So instead of spending more money on snake "research" and the bad publicity it generates, why don't we





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## Pet fair Sunday

Friday, 21 Sep 2012 03:00am The organization invites the public to head down to Asan and bring their pets, kids and ...

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oring in new "snake-proof" birds to Guam?		iConnect, IBTF art contest winners Friday, 21 Sep 2012 03:00am
Birds from snake areas effectively defend their nests from snakes by jabbing at the snake's eyes with their beaks. Guam's birds didn't so they are now extinct.		The adult category winner, Francis Labrador, received a VIP weekend trip for two to Reso
Hawaii lost all of its birds to Avian Malaria when mosquitoes came to the island 100 years ago. Hawaii is now home to numerous desirable but "non-native" species that were brought in and released.		Professional Development Day
Guam should do the same. The sooner the better.	ianas Vai	Friday, 21 Sep 2012 03:00am The Guam Department of Education in collaboration with the schools under their jurisdict
Refresh comments list		Professor releases film via YouTube
RSS feed for comments to this post	ianas Vai	Friday, 21 Sep 2012 03:00am "Art of Silat," developed by University of Guam Associate Professor Dr. Douglas S. F
Please Login to post a comment.		DPW gets 2 grants for highway safety
JComments	anas Vai	Friday, 21 Sep 2012 03:00am The monies will improve accessibility and accuracy of safety information and will also b
		Guam Export Trade Show continues today Friday, 21 Sep 2012 03:00am
	anas Vai	Today, the event continues with the workshop "The Riddle of the Exporter," an eight
	and <i>u</i>	Fugitive indicted on drug, firearm possession charge
	anas Var	Friday, 21 Sep 2012 03:00am Kevin Michael Cruz was indicted with conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine; possessio
	anas Va	Man admits to lying to feds Friday, 21 Sep 2012 03:00am Joseph Mitchell Casil was arrested in July 17 after U.S. Marshals conducted a surveillan
		Tokio Marine moves to new office Friday, 21 Sep 2012 03:00am The offices are located in Suite 202, 250 Route 4, Hagåtña, which is at the intersecti
		Group launches JA Company Program Friday, 21 Sep 2012 03:00am
	anas Vai	Junior Achievement is the world's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to educatin
		United to trim Guam office Thursday, 20 Sep 2012 03:00am
		Koji Nagata, UA director for Asia/Pacific Communications, said the current collective ba

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