

SEMINAR NEWS

The luncheon seminar at Ancon on Tuesday, October 25 will be given by JEFFREY GRAHAM, Scripps Institute of Oceanography, who will speak on:

Air breathing in fishes: hemoglobin and the impact of specialization on gas exchange

On Wednesday, October 26 at 8:30 am, GENE MONTGOMERY, STRI will be giving a seminar at the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory Conference Room (Justo Arosemena Avenue). The subject of his seminar will be:

Incidence of St. Louis Encephalitis in Marine Birds Captured in the Bay of Panama

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

October 28 - Arriving, JAMES KARR, University Of Illinois to continue studies on habitat selection in a tropical forest avifauna. He will be in Gamboa until November 7.

Also arriving this week is HUGH CHURCHILL, Missouri Botanical Garden, who will be the new MBG curator in Panama for the next three years. BIENVENIDO.

Leaving this coming week after spending a year at STRI is GLORIA CALDWELL. We wish her best of luck.

Staff Travel:

October 28 - Leaving, CAROL JOPLING to D.C. on official business. She will be away for 10 days.

October 29 - Leaving, NEAL SMITH for Texas, to attend the symposium on "Migrations: Mechanisms and Adaptive Significance", organized by the University of Texas at Austin, and covering terrestrial, aerial and aquatic migrations. Dr. Smith is expected back at STRI around November 9th.

LIBRARY NEWS

New publications received in the library this week:

Journals:

- Boletín de Lima
- International Journal of Invertebrate Reproduction
- Sociobiology

Books:

- Climate, Climatic Change and Water Supply (National Research Council 1977).

New Books (cont.)

- Deer Antlers (R.J. Goss, 1983).
- Echinoderm Studies (M. Jangoux and J. M. Lawrence, eds., 1983).
- Formaciones vegetales en Colombia (1983).
- Man the Promising Primate (P. J. Wilson, 1983).
- Los Moluscos Marinos del Parque Nacional La Restinga....(D. Princz).
- Physiological Salines: the Formulae for Animals from Protozoa to Vertebrata (M. Midsudami, 1979).
- Scientific Basis of Water Resource Management (National Resource Council, 1982).
- Solar Variability, Weather and Climate (National Research Council 1982).
- Tikopia: the prehistory and ecology of a Polynesian outlier (P.V. Krich and D.E. Yen, 1982).

IX LATINAMERICAN CONGRESS OF ZOOLOGY

STRI was well represented at the IX Congreso Latinoamericano de Zoología held from October 9 - 15 at the Universidad Nacional de San Agustín, Arequipa, Peru. M. ROBINSON, H. WOLDA, D. WERNER and J. VENTOCILLA presented papers that were well received. H. Wolda participated in the section on entomology, and D. Werner and J. Ventocilla in the section on conservation and management of fauna in Latin America. Referring to M. Robinson's conference on Tropical Arachnology, the Arequipa daily EL PUEBLO said: "it was highly applauded for the insights it presented on this group of organisms..." Although D. WINDSOR was unable to attend the congress, the abstract of his paper on the short and long term variations in climate in Central America and its effects on terrestrial organisms was also highlighted in the Arequipa newspapers. The effects of last "El Niño" on the marine fauna where the subject of a special three day symposium. "El Niño" is said to have been responsible for a one million dollar loss to the Peruvian economy.

DID YOU HEAR?

It didn't rain, the music was "contagious" and people danced at the STRI Halloween Party until..... MARIA MORELLO was very professional as the Master of Ceremonies and the judges gave the prizes for the best costume to: J. GRAHAM ("Tootsie"), L. GATES (American Indian), M. FERNANDEZ (witch), E. MORENO (Roman soldier), R. TURNER (tiger) and H. LEYTON (Japanese Samurai). The organizing committee did such a good job that they will most certainly be "drafted" to organize the next FIESTA, and those who didn't go should plan not to miss it.

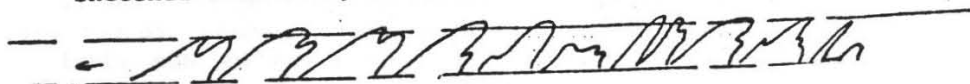
The autopsy of Natasha revealed no obvious cause of death and no evidence of gunshot, harpoon, propeller or machete wounds that might have been inflicted by a poacher. Nor was there any evidence of wounds that might have been inflicted by another crocodile. She was extremely fat and there were many pieces of fat the size of a man's hand attached to the mesenteries. The stomach contained a partly digested opossum. How the crocodile captured this largely arboreal animal is not clear but it is more likely that the opossum was swimming in the lake than that the crocodile had climbed a tree. The bones from this crocodile will be retrieved and preserved. One or more will be sent to the Natural History Museum in Washington to be sectioned, stained and examined for growth rings. It is possible that osteochronology can be used to estimate Natasha's age.

American crocodiles occur from southernmost Florida, through the Greater Antilles, Mexico, Central America, Panama, northern Colombia and into western Venezuela. The species is endangered in the US and other parts of its range because of human hunting and habitat destruction, but in some places substantial populations still occur. Crocodiles are protected by law in Panama and Gatun Lake maintains a small but thriving population. The population within the BCNM seems to have been increasing since the initiation of lake patrols that have reduced or eliminated hunting.

Natasha is survived by a large number of young crocodiles and by her mate BORYS.

NATASHA - profile of wear pattern on tail scutes

sketched from life, on Slothia 23 February 1983 by Leo Fleishman



post mortum sketch 25 October 1983 by Enrique Font

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!