

STRI newsletter

MAY 18, 1990

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 20

SEMINARS

Tupper Center Auditorium

Tuesday, May 22, noon seminar speakers will be Anne Meylan, Florida Marine Research Institute, and Peter Meylan, Eckerd College.

Studies of marine turtles in Bocas del Toro Province, 1979-1989.

Abstract

Bocas del Toro Province provides nesting, foraging and/or developmental habitat for four species of marine turtles. Our early studies documented the abundance, distribution and seasonality of the fauna. The province hosts one of the largest nesting populations of Dermochelys coriacea in the Caribbean and serves as a migratory station for green turtles en route to the colonial nesting beach at Tortuguero, Costa Rica. It also once supported one of the few known sites of aggregated nesting by the hawksbill turtle, but this population has been nearly extirpated by harvesting for the tortoiseshell trade. Our current studies aim to corroborate and refine a generalized life history model for marine turtles that includes several seasonal and ontogenetic changes in habitat occupation. Since 1989 we have sampled subadult populations of three species in Chiriqui Lagoon to determine population size structure, site fidelity, growth rates, sex ratios, and migratory movements. We are using laparoscopy to study the chronology of reproductive maturation in these long-lived species. Recoveries of tagged turtles are expected to establish that immature green turtles in Chiriqui Lagoon are part of the Tortuguero population. The origin of the loggerheads in the lagoon is unknown, there being no nearby nesting locality for this species. In June 1990, we will expand netting efforts to Zapatilla Cays to target the migratory "flotilla" of adult green turtles bound for Tortuguero.

Wednesday, May 23, David Steadman, The New York State Museum, will give a seminar at noon.

Late Quaternary extinction and biogeography of tropical island vertebrates: Galapagos vs Polynesia.

NEXT WEEK

Tuesday, May 29, noon seminar speaker will be Anthony Coates, George Washington University. Title to be announced.

Wednesday, May 31, Ann Budd, University of Iowa, will give the noon seminar. Title to be announced.

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Anne Meylan, Florida Marine Research Institute, May 19 - June 30, to do research on the ecology and migration of marine turtles in Bocas del Toro.
- Peter Meylan, Eckerd College, May 19 - June 30, to study reptiles and amphibians in Bocas del Toro.
- Anthony Coates, May 20 - 23, to be interviewed for the paleoecology position and give a seminar. Dr. Coates will be accompanied by his wife, Janet.
- David Steadman, New York State Museum, May 22 - 25, to be interviewed for the paleoecology position and give a seminar.

Departures

- ♦ May 14 - June 16, Robin Foster, STRI scientist, to Bolivia to continue research with Conservation International.
- ♦ May 18 - 24, Ross Robertson, STRI scientist, to do research on fishes in Costa Rica; will be accompanied by Gerald Allen.
- ♦ May 19 - 27, Richard Cooke, STRI archaeologist, to attend meetings of the International Council for Archaeozoology in Washington, D.C.
- ♦ May 23 - 28, John Cubitt invited by the MacArthur Foundation to present a seminar and participate in a workshop on the biology of the Mayan region, in Merida, Mexico.

Wedding Bells

María Luz Calderón, STRI Education Office, and Marcos Guerra, STRI Photography Lab, were married on April 27. Congratulations to both!

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Open Season - Thrift Savings Plan

Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) open season began May 15, 1990 and runs through July 31, 1990. Employees wishing to begin, change, or re-allocate their TSP contributions should fill out form TSP-1. Employees may stop their contributions at any time. New booklets and forms are available at each facility secretary's desk. For more information call Carmen Sucre, Personnel Office, Tivoli.

Tupper News

Remember beginning May 21, telephones at the Tupper/Tivoli complex will change.

NEW TELEPHONE	PRESENT TELEPHONE
27-6022	62-3133 Switchboard
27-6014	62-3224
27-2830	62-1022
27-2886	62-3172
27-6027	62-3438
27-6028	62-3479
27-6026	62-3417
27-6025	62-3516
27-6015	62-3729
27-6016	62-3731
27-6017	62-3215 I. Rubinoff
27-6018	62-3227 E. Lombardo
27-6019	62-3053 L. Motta
27-6020	62-3109 M. Arroyo
27-6021	62-3049 Visitors
27-6023	62-3151 Library
27-5715	62-6474 F. Pascal
27-5779	62-6149 E. Fischer
27-3127	62-6181 C. Urbina
27-2878	62-6540 DISA*
27-4918	62-6716 Education
27-3174	62-6643 Personnel

*to call after 5 p.m.

STRI Library News

The STRI Library will take advantage of the Memorial Day long weekend to fumigate and adequately ventilate the building; it will remain closed for several days.

Friday, May 25, 4 - 6 p.m, CLOSED

Saturday, May 26, CLOSED

Monday & Tuesday, May 28 & 29, CLOSED
The library staff may be reached at Tupper, Room 709, ext. 346, on Tuesday, May 29.

SI Identification Cards

New Smithsonian ID cards will be issued to all STRI personnel and visitors when Alejandro Arze, STRI security officer, returns from Washington, D.C. with supplies and materials.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BCI Journal Club

The BCI Journal Club will meet Thursday, May 24, at 7:30 p.m. A launch will leave Gamboa at 5:35 p.m. and return from the island at 9:00 p.m. Paper to be discussed: A.L. GOLDBERGER ET AL. 1990. CHAOS AND FRACTALS IN HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY. SCI. AMER.

A Thank You Note

Dionisio Oses (Cook on BCI) and Carlos Clark (Library Security Guard), who lost all their belongings during the December happenings, express their heartfelt appreciation to Dr. and Mrs. Rand, Dr. and Mrs. Keller, Dr. Robertson, Dr. Wolda and Dr. Fischer, for their kindness and generosity.

Día del Contador



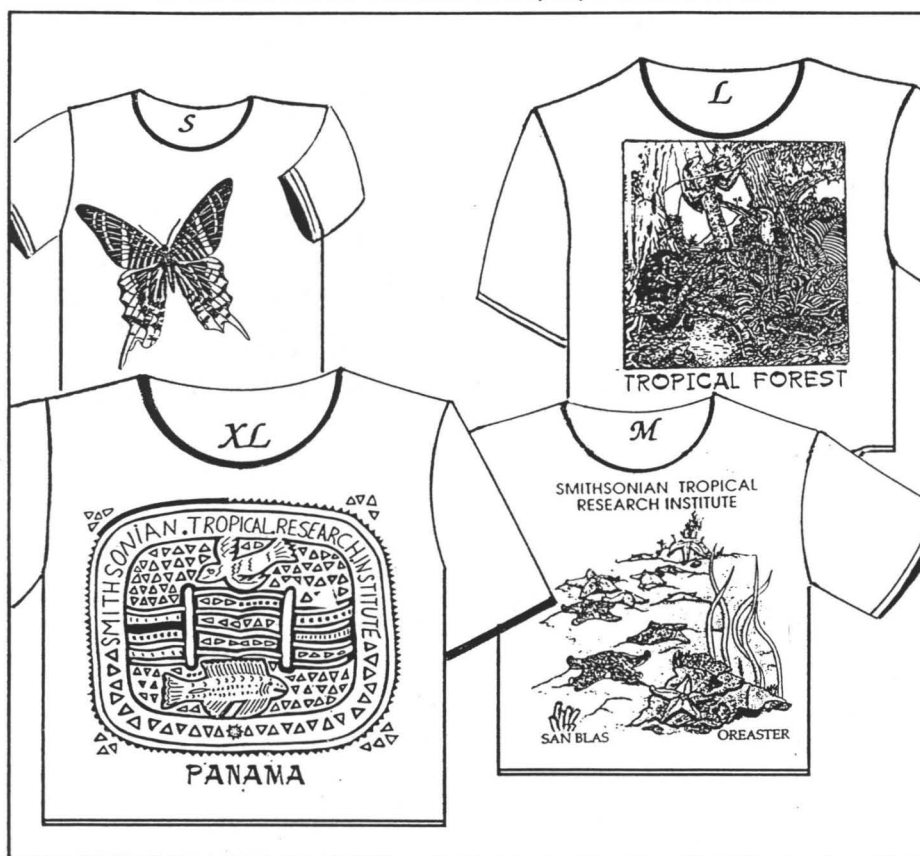
Felicitaciones a los compañeros del Departamento de Contabilidad, con motivo de la celebración del Día del Contador el jueves 17 de mayo.

Personnel News

Jorge Ventocilla, Environmental Specialist, returns to the STRI Education and Conservation Office on May 21, after two years in the wildlife management masters program at the Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica.

STRI T-Shirts for Sale

Recently arrived t-shirts with motifs of neotropical rainforest, *Urania* moth, *Oreaster* starfish, and the STRI logo as a Panamanian mola available at the STRI Mini-Bookstore in S, M, L and XL sizes.



Courses/Opportunities for Study

Field School in Ethnology, 4 Jun - 3 Aug, University of Oklahoma. Offers course in techniques of ethnographic fieldwork, including the collection of genealogies, oral history, rudimentary linguistic transcription, and methods of sociological analysis. Also emphasized are the ethical and political issues involved in doing fieldwork with American Indian peoples. Contact: Program Development Services, 1700 Asp. Ave. Norman, Oklahoma 73037-0001.

The Institute for Field Ornithology is a non-profit organization for increasing knowledge of birds in their natural habitat. A part of the University of Maine at Machias, its workshops may be taken for two hours of university credit. The University has, as well, a bachelor's degree program in Environmental Studies, with a concentration in Avian Ecology. The 1990 workshops for birders and ornithologists include: BIRDS AND BYTES, 20-26 May; WARBLERS, 1-6 July; SEABIRDS OF THE NORTHWEST

ATLANTIC, 4-11 August; SHOREBIRDS, 12-18 August, all these to be held at Machias, Maine; SEABIRDS OF THE NORTH PACIFIC, 19-26 August, Seattle area, Washington; RAPTORS AT CAPE MAY POINT, 14-20 October at Cape May, New Jersey. Contact: UMM Institute for Field Ornithology, 9 O'Brien Ave., Machias, ME 04654.

The Field Biology and Training Program at the Manomet Bird Observatory offers students the opportunity to earn a semester of college credit while participating in ongoing field research and conservation. All students gain training in every phase of biological research from hypothesis generation to field work to presentation of results for research and conservation use. Several different Field Semesters are offered in 1990-1991: COASTAL POPULATIONS OF BIRDS IN BELIZE, 28 Jan-10 May, 1991; BIRD COMMUNITIES OF THE TROPICAL FOREST, 28 Jan-10 May, 1991; OSPREY POPULATION ECOLOGY, 21 May-31 Aug, 1990 and 20 May-30 Aug, 1991; TERN BREEDING ECOLOGY, 21 May-31 Aug, 1990 and 20 May-30 Aug, 1991; LANDBIRDS IN THE BOREAL FOREST, 21 May-31 Aug, 1990 and 13 May-23 Aug, 1991; TROPICAL FOREST COMMUNITIES IN PUERTO RICO, 12 Aug-29 Nov, 1991; SHOREBIRD USE OF THE CABO ROJO SALT FLATS, PUERTO RICO, 13 Aug-14 Dec, 1990 and 12 Aug-13 Dec, 1991; MIGRATION ECOLOGY OF FALL LANDBIRDS, 13 Aug-30 Nov, 1990 and 12 Aug-29 Nov, 1991. Contact: Field Biology Training Program, Manomet Bird Observatory, Box 936, Manomet, MA 02345, Tel. (508)224-6521.

STRI LIBRARY NEW BOOK LIST

Advances in myrmecology (JC Trager, ed., 1988)
QL568.F7A38 1988X STRI.

Behavior and evolution : lovebirds, cockatiels,
 budgerigars (JL Kavanau, 1987) **QL696.P7K38 1987X STRI.**

Biology of Chrysomelidae (P. Jolivet et al., eds., 1988)
QL596.C5B53 1988X STRI.

The Butterflies of Indiana (EM Schull, 1987)
QL551.I6S58 1987X STRI.

The Carnivorous plants (BE Juniper, 1988) **QK917.J95
 1988 STRI.**

Cerambycidae of Northern Asia (AI Cherepanov, 1988-)
QL596.C4C52 E1988 v.2, pt.1 STRI.

Common forest trees of Hawaii : (native and
 introduced) (EL Little, Jr. & RG Skolmen, 1989)
QK473.H4L58 1989X STRI.

Dynamics of soil organic matter in tropical ecosystems :
 result of a conference held at the Maui Beach Hotel,
 Kahului, Maui, Hawaii, October 7-15, 1988, hosted by the
 NITFAL Project, University of Hawaii (DC Coleman et al.,
 eds., 1989) **S592.8.D96 1989X STRI.**

The Eagle, the cactus, the rock : the roots of Mexico-
 Tenochtitlan's foundation myth and symbol (D. Heyden,
 1989) **QF1219.3.R38H615 1989 STRI.**

Endocrinology (ME Hadley, 1988) **QP187.H17 1988X STRI.**

Evolutionary jurisprudence : prospects and limitations on
 the use of modern Darwinism throughout the legal
 process (JH Beckstrom, 1989) **K487.S65B4 1989X STRI.**

Flora of Karnataka : analysis (BD Sharma ... (et al.),
 1984) **QK358.F563 1984X STRI.**

Food pathways associated with penaeid shrimps in a
 mangrove-fringed estuary (AW Stoner & RJ Zimmerman,
 1989) **QL444.M33S88 1988 STRI.**

Late Intermediate occupation at Cerro Azul, Peru : a
 preliminary report (J. Marcus, 1987) **F3429.3.F57M37
 1987X STRI.**

Late Pleistocene vertebrate paleoecology of the West
 (AH Harris, 1985) **QE841.H284 1985X STRI.**

Mammals as pests (RJ Putnam, ed., 1989) **SB993.5.M36
 1989X STRI.**

Membership directory and handbook (American Fisheries
 Society, 1989-90) Ref **SH203.A512m STRI.**

Molecular cloning : a laboratory manual (J. Sambrook
 et al., 1989) **QH442.2.S26 1989X v.1-3 STRI.**

Ocean circulation (Open University Course Team, 1989)
GC228.5.O25 1989X STRI.

Paleoclimatology and paleometeorology : modern and
 past patterns of global atmospheric transport (NATO
 Advanced Research Workshop on Paleoclimatology and

Paleometeorology : Modern and Past Patterns of Global
 Atmospheric Transport (1987 : Oracle, Arizona), 1989)
QC981.8.C5N37 1987X STRI.

Perspectives on ecology : a critical essay (K. Mello,
 1988) **QH540.5.M45 1988X STRI.**

Pollution of the North Sea : an assessment (W. Salomons
 ... (et al.), eds., 1988) **GC1291.P65 1988X STRI.**

Revision of North American Tachysphex wasps including
 Central American and Caribbean species
 (Hymenoptera: sphecidae) (WJ Pulawski, 1988)
QL568.S7P98 1988 STRI.

South American Indian languages : retrospect and
 prospect (HEM Klein & LR Stark, 1985) **PM5008.S68 1985X
 STRI.**

The Southeast Maya periphery (PA Urban & EM
 Schortman, eds., 1986) **F1434.S68 1986X STRI.**

Sphecid wasps of the world : a generic revision (RM
 Bohart & AS Menke, 1976) **QL568.S7B63X STRI.**

Statistical yearbook = Annuaire statistique (Unesco, 1989)
 Ref **AZ361.S797 STRI.**

Vertebrate red cells : adaptations of function to
 respiratory requirements (M. Nikinmaa, 1990) **QP96.N55
 1990X STRI.**

Visuomotor coordination : amphibians, comparisons,
 models, and robots (International Workshop on
 Visuomotor Coordination in Amphibians: Experiments,
 Comparison, Models, and Robots (1987 : Kassel,
 Germany), 1989) **QL669.2.I59 1987X STRI.**

Zooarchaeology of six prehistoric sites in the Sierra
 Blanca region, New Mexico (JC Driver, 1985)
E78.N65D75 1985X STRI.

Humor



"For God's sake, hurry, driver! ... She's
 dropping babies all over the place!"

*The Tupper Restaurant announces its
 1st Happy Hour on Friday, May 25th.
 Beer, mixed drinks, and ceviche will be
 sold. Come and join us!*