

STRI newsletter

March 22, 1991

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panama

No. 12

SEMINARS

Tupper Center Auditorium

Tuesday, March 26, noon seminar speaker will be Dr. Kim Derrickson, SI National Zoological Park.

The singing behavior of northern mockingbirds: do females prefer versatile singing?

Abstract

The northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) is renowned for its complex singing behavior. The size of the vocal repertoire differs among males, ranging from 150 to well over 250 acoustically distinct song types, and appears to increase with age. The manner in which the repertoire is presented is very flexible and varies among breeding stages. For example, the versatility of the singing behavior is highest during courtship and decreases significantly once a female begins to nest. This pattern, along with several other aspects of their singing behavior, implicate inter-sexual selection as a mechanism responsible for the evolution of such complex singing. Experiments, using several techniques such as behavioral choice experiments, estradiol implants, and heart rate telemetry, are currently being conducted to test this possibility. Preliminary results will be presented.

Next Week

No noon seminar scheduled for Tuesday, April 2nd.

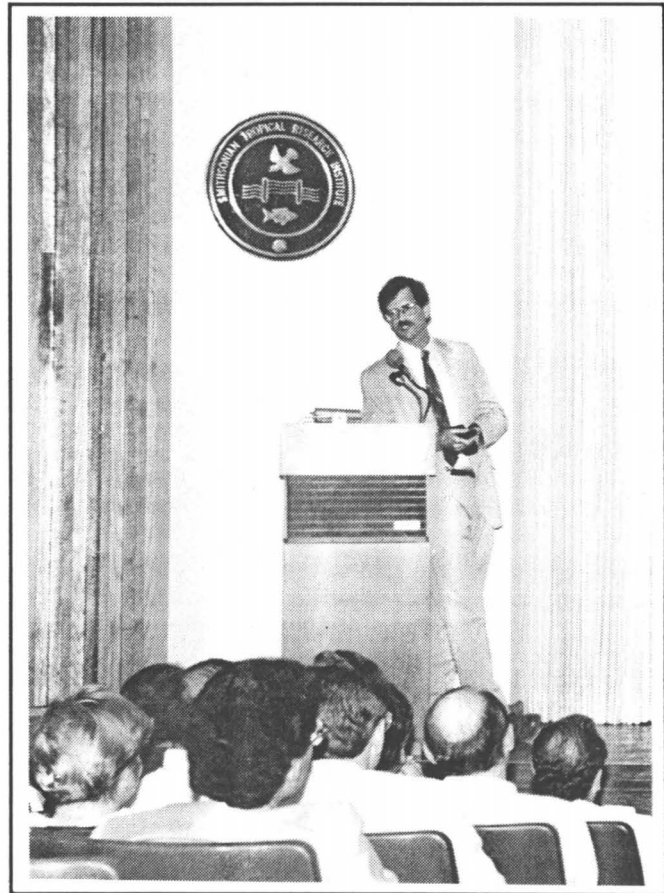
PEOPLE

Arrivals

- March 23 - 31, James Hamrick, Mellon Foundation Sr. Fellow & John Nason, to work on causes of genetic structure in tropical tree population on BCI.
- March 24 - April 7, Nancy Knowlton, STRI Scientific Staff, to supervise research project and consult with STRI staff. On return to U. K. will stop in Washington, D.C. for official business.
- March 25, George Angher, STRI Development Office, to work at STRI for various months.

Departures

- March 25 - 19, Ricardo Beteta, on official business to SI Libraries to Washington, DC. and on annual leave from April 1 - 12.



As part of the STRI effort to inform the Panamanian community of STRI's work, monthly or bi-monthly visits by local organizations to the Tupper Center are being scheduled. On Thursday, March 14, Alan Smith gave a short talk on the Canopy Access System Project to APEDE members ••• Visitas mensuales o bi-mensuales por grupos locales al Centro Tupper están siendo organizadas, como parte del esfuerzo de STRI por informar a la comunidad panameña de su labor. Alan Smith dió una corta presentación sobre el Proyecto del Sistema de Acceso al Dosel del Bosque, el pasado jueves, 14 de marzo, a miembros de la Asociación Panameña de Ejecutivos de Empresas (APEDE). (Foto: C. Hansen)

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Reminder

Friday, March 29, (Good Friday) is a STRI holiday.

Library News

The STRI Library will be closed on Saturday, March 30.

News from Procurement

■ We would like to remind you that APO mail has very specific regulations that must be followed. Packages should be within the 70" limit and 108" length plus girth, well-wrapped and with a custom declaration. Shipping must be specified: Air Mail, SAM, PAL, Surface, Insured. Your facility secretary has a guide for military postal service.

■ Please be advised that the correct mailing address is as follows:

For official mail--

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute
ATTN:
APO MIAMI 34002-0011

For personal mail--

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute
ATTN:
P.O. Box 2072
Balboa, Republic of Panama

It is important to remember that the APO address is to be used exclusively for official mail. Improper use of the APO could result in the return to sender of mail and packages for unauthorized APO use.

Regarding Purchase of Supplies from Procurement Central Stockroom

To procure items from the Procurement Department inventory please follow this procedure:

1. A requisition (SI-4/3 copies) must be issued through the facility secretary; it must contain the usual information, such as requisition number, estimated cost and fund number.
2. The vendor will be "procurement stockroom".
3. The requisition can be transmitted directly to the Procurement Dept. if the estimated value is under \$300.
4. The merchandise will be delivered 2 to 3 days after receipt of the requisition.
5. When the supplies are forwarded, an invoice will be issued to the requestor, who must sign for receipts of the supplies and the signed invoice must be returned to procurement. A copy of the invoice will be sent to procurement to charge the requestor's fund.

We ask that you follow the procedure outlined above and do not come to the procurement stockroom unless it is an emergency.

The list of supplies available has been distributed to all facilities' secretaries and laboratory coordinators.

Address Correction ••• Corrección de Dirección

To send mail to William Eberhard & Mary Jane West Eberhard do not use address in University of Costa, use instead APO address: c/o US Embassy in Costa Rica, APO MIAMI 34020.

Favor enviar correo de William Eberhard y Mary Jane West Eberhard a la dirección siguiente: a/c US Embassy, Costa Rica, APO Miami 34020. No use la dirección de la Universidad de Costa Rica.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**Publications at STRI**

- Wade, Michael, and Kalisk Susan. 1989. The additive partitioning of selection gradients. *Evolution* 43(7): 1567-1569.
- Blest, A.D., D. C. O'Carroll and M. Carter. 1990. Comparative ultrastructure of Layer I receptor mosaics in principal eyes of jumping spiders: the evolution of regular arrays of light guides. *Cell Tissue Research* 262:445-460.

Volunteers Available

- Kayla Duty, high school senior from Balboa High School, is interested in conservation and biology. Would like to work in animal research. She is available on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 1 - 4 p.m. Anyone interested please contact Dolores Piperno or call 52-2417.

- Anybody needing a short-term or long-term field assistant or diving buddy? In return for bed and board she will do all those tedious chores for you. A biologist (B.Sc.) with years of teaching experience, STRI diver and PADI Divemaster. If interested, please contact Bron Sinclair, on BCI.

Assistant Available

Jennifer Frederick is seeking a position as an intern in biology. She will graduate from Wellesley College with honors in May 1991. Her education includes studies in The School for Field Studies, Spring 1990 at British West Indies, and in the fall of 1989 studies in oceanography and nautical sciences in Woods Hole, MA. She worked as a research assistant at the New England Aquarium from June to August 1990. Ms. Frederick is a certified SCUBA diver with approximately 30 logged drives and has knowledge of Microsoft Word, Word Perfect, Lotus.

De la Oficina de Visitantes •••
News from the Visitor Services Office

El permiso para visitar la estación de PEMASKY en Nusagandi para llevar a cabo colectas u observaciones científicas, deberá procesarse con dos semanas de anticipación, por medio de María Morello en Tupper.

Collecting and/or research permit to visit the PEMASKY research station in Nusagandi must be processed 2 weeks in advance, through Maria Morello, Visitors Services Office, Tupper.

FROM OTHER SOURCES

News on Marine Pollution

(taken from the Newsletter of UNEP's Caribbean Environment Program)

Special investigations, educational pursuits and outreach projects have been designed in an attempt to reduce and remove beach debris from the shores and coastal waters of the Gulf of Mexico, specially along the Texas and Louisiana coasts. A 1987 survey done by the Centre for Marine Conservation (CMC), formerly the Centre for Educational Education (CEE), clearly implicated fishing, petroleum operations and beach users as most significant contributors to the problem.

Over recent years, CMC launched several beach clean-up campaigns and trash surveys in the Gulf of Mexico region, sometimes collecting as much as one ton of debris per mile of beach. Evidence from these campaigns verified that marine debris, specially plastics, can kill living marine resources through entanglement and ingestion and may be contributing to the demise of endangered sea turtles. Due to the general currents within the Gulf of Mexico, solid waste items usually end up on a Louisiana or Texas beach.

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) of the United States Department



One of the pluses of having the Amador Causeway as a recreational area, under the administration of the municipality, is being able to observe events such as this group of 32 sailboats from approximately 16 countries, participating in the world wide regatta Rally Europe 92 ••• Uno de los beneficios del área recreativa de la Calzada de Amador, ahora bajo la administración del municipio, es el poder apreciar vistas como la de estos 32 veleros de aproximadamente 16 nacionalidades, que participan en la regata alrededor del mundo Rally Europa 92.

(Foto: C. Hansen)

of the Interior developed a regional strategy to protect Gulf beaches. For this reason, the "Take Pride Gulfwide" Task Force was established. One accomplishment has been U.S. ratification of Annex V of MARPOL, which prohibits ocean disposal of plastics from ships. The Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea have been proposed as a "special area" under MARPOL.

However, for such a proposal to become a reality, port receptive facilities to off-load waste from ships need to be put in place. The World Bank has expressed interest in financing such facilities in the Caribbean region. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) and UNEP/CEP convened a regional workshop to consider this issue. The workshop took place in Caracas, October 1990. If interested in information on the results of the workshop, contact Outdoor Recreation Planner, MMS, 1201 Elmwood Park Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70123-2394. Tel: 504-736-2780.

World Press Centre

Recently an electronic news service was initiated, which disseminates information on the environment, economics, tropical forestry, women issues and international organizations. The World Press Centre (WPC) acts as a direct networking link to provide access to various agencies interested in sending and receiving news items; WPC does not intervene in the news flow nor does it edit any news items. For more information, contact World Press Centre, 284A Chase Road, London N14 6HF, United Kingdom. Tel: (44-81) 882-9841, Fax (44-81) 882-9848.

STRI LIBRARY NEW BOOK LIST

Acanthaster planci : major management problem of coral reefs (CE Birkeland & JS Lucas, 1990) **QL384.A8B57 1990X STRI.**

Adaptive options and policy implications of sea level rise and other coastal impacts of global climate change : workshop report to the Coastal Zone Management Subgroup, convened by Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Response Strategies Working Group. **QC981.8.C5A22 1990 STRI.**

Areas naturales protegidas de Costa Rica (TA Meza, 1990) **SD572.C8M617 1990 STRI.**

Behavior, mimetic songs and song dialects, and relationships of the parasitic indigobirds (vidua) of Africa (RB Payne, 1973) **QL696.P264P39X STRI.**

Evaluación del posible impacto ecológico sobre la fauna existente en el área del nuevo embalse del proyecto hidroeléctrico la Fortuna fase II : primer informe de avance / preparado para el Instituto de Recursos Hidráulico y Electrificación por Centro de Estudios de Recursos Bióticos. **QH545.H93E92 1990 STRI.**

The Evaluation of the hazards of harmful substances carried by ships/ IMCO/ FAO/ UNESCO/ WMO/ WHO/ IAEA/ UN/ UNEP Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution (GESAMP) **VK199.E93 1982X STRI.**

The Fisheries of the Near East region (PL Mietle, 1967) **SH303.M63 1967 STRI.**

Initials and acronyms of bodies, activities and projects concerned with fisheries and aquatic sciences = Initiales et sigles des organismes, activites et projets lies a la peche et aux sciences aquatiques = iniciales y siglas de organismos, actividades y proyectos relacionados con la pesca y las ciencias acuáticas (G. Landi, 1979) **SH1.L25 1979 STRI.**

From: **365 Ways to save our planet**
• *Page-a-day Calendar*

Attention TV Owners

Most newer TV sets draw 1.58 watts of standby power for the instant-on and other features even when you shut them down. *Pull the plug when you're not watching.* According to one estimate, the equivalent of one large power plant is needed to run U.S. televisions when they're switched off!

Insect defenses : adaptive mechanisms and strategies of prey and predators (DL Evans & JO Schmidt, eds., 1990) **QL434.8.I57 1990X STRI.**

Island encounters : black and white memories of the Pacific War (L. Lindstrom, 1990) **D769.9.L56 1990X STRI.**

Neotropical rainforest mammals : a field guide (LH Emmons, 1990) **QL723.A1E44 1990X STRI.**

Objects of change : the archaeology and history of Arikara contact with Europeans (JD Rogers, 1990) **E99.A8R64 1990X STRI.**

Pacific marine museum and data/research centers, 1990 (LB Landauer & DA Landauer, comp., 1990) **Ref V13.P16L25 1990 STRI.**

Protecting the global environment : funding mechanisms : findings and conclusions **QC981.8.G56P96 1989S STRI.**

Protecting the global environment : funding mechanisms : appendicies **QC981.8.G56P96 1989 suppl. STRI.**

Proyecto Hidroeléctrico Boruca, vol. 1, Estudio geológico regional (S. Mora Castro, 1979) **QE212.M82 1979 STRI.**

Report of the fifth session , held at IAEA headquarters, Vienna, 18-23 June, 1973 (IMCO/ FAO/ UNESCO/ WMO/ WHO/ IAEA/ UN Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution, 1973) **GC1081.I17 1973X STRI.**

Reproduction of colonial reef corals : individuality of coral colonies and colony size related characteristics (K. Soong, 1990) **QL377.C5S7115 1990a STRI.**

Revisión del género Megacerus : (Coleoptera, Bruchidae) (AL Terán y JM Kingsolver, 1977) **QL596.B7T47 1977X STRI.**

The Rio Bayano Basin : a geological report (RH Stewart, 1966) **QE216.S85 1966a STRI.**

La Situación ambiental en Centroamérica y el Caribe (I. Hedstrm, ed., 1989) **GF521.S58 1989X STRI.**

Wild ice : Antarctic journeys (R. Naveen et al., 1990) **G860.W55 1990X STRI.**