

**HOLIDAYS NEXT WEEK**

Monday, October 11 (Día de la Revolución) is an official holiday in the Republic of Panama. It also coincides with the celebration of Columbus Day (U.S.) and is an official holiday for STRI employees. Tuesday, October 12, Columbus Day (Día de la Raza) is also observed as a holiday in the Republic of Panama. Government offices, banks, and some business establishments will be closed Monday and Tuesday.

SOME TRAINS TO BE ELIMINATED

Effective OCTOBER 11, 1982, the following trains will no longer operate:

Weekdays: the noon trains, from both sides of the isthmus. Week-ends: the 9:00 p.m. train from Colon to Panama, and the 10:50 pm train from Panama to Colon.

STAFF MEETING

The monthly scientific staff meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 12 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ancon Conference Room. Prompt attendance will be greatly appreciated.

SEMINAR NEWS

We will be having a luncheon seminar on Thursday, October 14th at 12 noon in the Ancon Conference Room. It will be given by DAGMAR WERNER, Beyruth University, who will speak on:

Mating behavior in Galapagos land iguanas on Fernandina Island

ARRIVALS

OCTOBER 10 - OLA FINCKE, University of Iowa, on a STRI Educational Outreach Fellowship, for three months. She will be studying the reproductive and feeding behavior and larval ecology of the giant damselflies on BCI.

OCTOBER 10 - NELIA WHITE, from the University of California, Santa Barbara, to work as an assistant to R. Robertson and H. Lessios at San Blas.

OCTOBER 10 - RICHARD FOSTER, to film: the sloth-moth story; the spider and the fly story; and the mantids mating in the morning story. He will be at STRI for 6 weeks.

OCTOBER 11 - DORIS SMALL, University of California at Santa Barbara, to work on R. Warner's project in San Blas for the next three months.

OCTOBER 12 - ALASTAIR BROWN of Primedia Productions, Canada, to visit STRI facilities and coordinate the future visit of a film crew that will be making a science documentary on STRI.

STAFF TRAVEL

OCTOBER 9 - Leaving, ADELA GOMEZ for Washington, D.C. to attend a course and for a short vacation.

A recent official trip to Washington, D.C. by members of the STRI administrative staff, MERCEDES ARROYO, ELENA LOMBARDO, GLORIA MAGGIORI and CARMEN SUCRE, coincided with the official visit to the U.S. of Panama's President, RICARDO DE LA ESPRIELLA and an official Panamanian delegation. The luncheon in honor of President de la Espriella held in Washington's National Press Club was attended

by DAVID CHALLINOR and ROSS SIMONS from the SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, and ELENA LOMBARDO from STRI.

ILLUSTRATOR AVAILABLE

SHAHLA POWLES to do biological illustrations on a contract basis. She can be contacted at (2)52-5836.

WANTED

Someone to share a 3 bedroom apartment in Balboa with Bruce Rifkin. If interested, please contact him at (2)52-5134.

BUY A STRI T-SHIRT

Available in three designs (with BCI howler monkey; Naos-Pelamis platurus; and STRI's official seal) in all sizes: small, medium or large. Only \$6.25. These may be purchased from Aida Velasquez at the Tivoli Office. Also available is the "Taboga is for Pelicans Too" T-shirt for \$7 from Gene Montgomery in the Ancon Building.

A NATURAL EVENT THAT SHOULD NOT BE MISSED

NEAL SMITH reports that one of the most spectacular natural history events that occurs in the New World is the passage of several species of raptors between the tropics and their temperate zone breeding grounds. While locations such as the Bosphorous, visited by SMITH last May, and Elat in Israel, have more species of raptors, nothing matches the concentrations and sheer numbers that occur during October and November on the Pacific side of Panama. The actual passage route is quite narrow, bordered by Ancon Hill and the Bahai Faith Temple on the south, and a line drawn from the Chiva-Chiva Road N.E. to the 1700-foot peak above Las Cumbres.

The dynamics are rather complicated, but the location of the Intertropical Convergence Zone, 130 miles north of the isthmus had some relation with the unprecedented concentration of Broad-winged hawks, *Buteo playpterus* observed by Smith over Ancon Hill on Oct. 6th and 7th. On the morning of the 7th they appeared like mosquitos from the forested ridges behind Curundu where they had slept, sought out the early thermals rising over the city, and disappeared to the east. Many will stay here, but most will enter Colombia, Venezuela and Peru, where they will take up residence for about 5 months. Broad winged Hawks will continue their passage through Panama until midOctober, where they are joined by great numbers of Swainson's Hawks, which bred in western North America and are on their way to Argentina, a flight of 70 days and almost 1200 kilometers. During late October and early November we will see vast columns of Turkey vultures pass through. (In a forth-coming seminar, Smith will defend his view of how these vultures do not feed during the great flight, but rely solely on fat.) Smith recommends that you go to the Bahai Faith Temple for best viewing of the migrating birds, and that "if the birds are not passing, you will have the architectural beauty and view for contemplation".

Editors Note: We are getting ready for the discontinuation of long paper in the Federal Government. Thanks to Gene Montgomery's ability to use the composer we will try to produce the NEWSLETTER on short paper. We apologize for errors; "practice makes perfect".