

STRI newsletter

February 8, 1991

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panama

No. 6

SEMINARS

Tupper Center Auditorium

No seminar scheduled for Tuesday, Feb 12.

Next Week

Tuesday, Feb 19, noon seminar speaker will be Gordon Orians, University of Washington at Seattle.

Why do avian hosts accept parasitic eggs?

Abstract

Many birds, accept, incubate, and feed eggs and nestling of parasitic species despite substantially lowered reproductive success resulting from doing so. Why they do so is under considerable dispute, ranging from adaptive to maladaptive interpretations. Using Redwinged Blackbirds as subjects, we have distinguished between sunk and recoverable costs, thereby demonstrating that ejection of the parasitic egg may not be advantageous for this species. Continued feeding of parasitic nestlings remains a puzzle.

Special Seminar

Also on Tuesday, Feb 19, Ernst Mayr, Harvard University will give an evening seminar at 6:30 pm. Title to be announced.

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Feb 13, Charles Handley, National Museum of Natural History, with Penny Welson, to continue their research in Bocas del Toro.
- Feb 15-Mar 3, Ian Woiwod, Rothamsted Experimental Station, United Kingdom, to visit STRI facilities and give seminar.
- Feb 11, J. Jones to initiate Smithsonian Internship with D. Roubik at Gamboa.
- Feb 13-Mar 13, Melvin Tyree to continue research on Barro Colorado.
- Feb 15, Sandra Patiño, assistant to Dr. Melvin Tyree to work on BCI.



On Jan 30 and 31, a Health Risk Appraisal Clinic was set up at STRI with the assistance of MEDDAC personnel. They tested about 175 persons. The results will be distributed at a meeting on Wednesday, Feb 13 from 2:30-4:00 pm in the Tupper Conference Auditorium. Qualified personnel (nutritionist & cardiologist) will be providing an explanation of the tests and risk factors. In the photo Everardo Curney, Procurement Department, undergoes a blood pressure test ••• Durante los días 30 y 31 de enero se instaló en el STRI una clínica para el diagnóstico de problemas de salud donde se examinaron a 175 personas. Los resultados se darán el 13 de febrero de 2:30-4:00 pm en el Auditorio del Centro Tupper. En la foto Everardo Curney del Departamento de Compras se somete a un examen de presión sanguínea.

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

Departures

- Ross Robertson, STRI Staff, Feb 11-24, to San Jose del Cabo, Mexico, to photograph fishes for guide book.
- Stanley Rand, and Roberto Ibañez, STRI Fellow, Feb 15-22, to Costa Rica to attend the Amphibian Population Meeting.

Delegation of Authority

Mrs. Leonor Motta will serve as Acting Director of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute for February 8-13, 1991.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 1991						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

- Feb 12 & 13 - Carnival. Banks will be closed.
- Feb 15 - Deadline for receipts of Short Term Fellowships and Exxon Fellowships at the STRI Office of Education. Also deadline for 3 Year Fellowship Applications.
- Feb 18 - Washington Birthday, STRI Holiday
- Feb 19 - Scientific Staff Meeting
- Feb 28 - SI Fellowship Review Meeting

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

E - Mail News

If you are doing a file transfer on electronic mail, we suggest you delete all codes for underlining from your Wordperfect document since they cause difficulties when attempting the transfer.

From Procurement



The Procurement Department has received mail for the following persons, some were previously affiliated with STRI. Please contact the Department if you have any information on where can they be reached.

Luis Cárdenas

Fernando Esmurria

Dolores Mercado

Bryan A. Morton

Melquiades Rodríguez

Patricia Gentili

Michael Miller

Delia de Rodríguez

Fernando Soray

Reminder from Procurement

When equipment is being sent for repairs remember the following steps:

1. Issue a requisition through the facility secretary for funding approval and issuing of Purchase Order.
2. Packing must be on the original box if possible, include custom declaration with insurance value and method of shipping, mark FRAGILE outside the package, and enclose purchase order. For proper packaging, please see previous memorandum sent to each facility.

Following these steps will help to avoid catastrophes of broken/lost equipment.

De la Oficina de Personal



Importante! Se les recuerda a todos los contratistas que hasta la fecha no han enviado su *Curriculum vitae* que por favor lo hagan a la mayor brevedad posible. El nuevo reglamento así lo exige.

Course Cancelled

The Laboratory Safety Course originally scheduled for the week of Feb 25, 1991 has been cancelled. This course will be rescheduled when we have new dates for OSHA instructors.

Important Announcement RE/ MI Plates

In order to process MI 1991 license plates please send *Revisado* and updated insurance papers to Celideth Mendoza, no later than Feb 15.

From the Director's Office

Please remember to send the Director one copy of all submitted manuscripts of scientific papers related to your research at STRI. This procedure helps us track of STRI research activities and also helps to prepare timely press releases of appropriate forthcoming work.

Correction to Trust Fund Retirement Plan

Social Security Wage Base for 1991 is \$53,400. instead of \$54,300 ...all earnings up to wage base taxed at 7.65% ...maximum yearly Social Security tax paid by employers and employees each will be \$4,085.11 instead of \$4,153.95. In 1991 all earnings above the wage base up through \$125,000 will be taxed Medicare tax of 1.45%

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to STRI photographers



Pat Rand and Marcos Guerra won awards for their photographs at the All-Photography Juried Show of the Panama Canal Chapter of the National League of American Pen Women. Judges were Carlos de

Panamá, Luis Acevedo and Jorge Sosa, three prestigious photographers in Panama. The exhibit will be on display at the Balboa Branch, Citibank until Friday, March 1.

To Friends of Katie Moss

Former volunteer on BCI can write to her at PSC Box 2873, APO New York 09109. Her husband Alex is flying F-16s' in Saudi Arabia.

News on the Tupper Conference Center

Please remember that food and beverages are not allowed inside the auditorium and that smoking is prohibited inside the Tupper Research and Conference Center.

LAST MINUTE FAX TRANSMISSION

Dr. Ernst Mayr, Harvard University, will conduct an open discussion in the BCI Lounge Thursday, February 14, at 7:45 p.m.

Universidad Latinoamericana de Ciencia y Tecnología - ULACIT

La ULACIT, es una institución privada de educación superior, la cual, aunque tan solo cuenta con cuatro años de edad, forma parte del consorcio educativo Grupo PROE, con más de cincuenta años al servicio de la sociedad costarricense.

El programa de Maestría se sustenta en tres áreas como lo son el campo de los recursos naturales, el turismo y la administración. El programa es de dos años, consta de cinco trimestres (12 semanas cada uno), además de un período de nueve meses para la investigación, el cual es flexible según el tema y necesidades del estudiante.

La carrera está organizada bajo el sistema modular, cuya composición de cursos y contenidos presentan un área en particular. Por lo tanto, el Programa queda estructurado de la siguiente forma:

- I. Módulo: Biota Neotropical I
- II. Módulo: Biota Neotropical II
- III. Módulo: Especialización Turística
- IV. Módulo: Administración Aplicada al Ecoturismo
- V. Módulo: Área de énfasis

Requisitos de Ingreso: Bachiller Universitario como grado mínimo

Requisitos de Graduación: Dominio del idioma inglés. Mínimo 63 créditos aprobados de cursos de postgrado. Trabajo de tesis y defensa de la misma.

El primer programa de maestría en turismo ecológico dio inicio en febrero de 1990, aprobado por el CONESUP, artículo II, sesión 132-89 del 10 de abril de 1989.

Programa Regional: Programado para iniciar en junio de 1991. Actualmente sometido a aprobación CONESUP.

STRI NEW PUBLICATIONS

- Collins, Laurel S. 1990. "Pliocene Benthic Foraminifera of Caribbean Panama: Implications for the Closure of the Isthmus." (Abstract). *Abstracts with Programs, Geological Society of American Annual Meeting, Dallas, 1990: A199.*
- Cotton, Mathew A. and Dowsett, Harry J. 1990. "Neogene Planktonic Foraminiferal Biostratigraphy from the Pacific and Caribbean Sides of the Lower Central American Isthmus." (Abstract). *Abstracts with Programs, Geological Society of America, Annual Meeting, Dallas, 1990: A200.*
- Duke, Norman C. 1990. "Morphological Variation in the Mangrove Genus *Avicennia* in Australasia: Systematic and Ecological Considerations." *Aust. Sys. Bot.* 3: 221-239.
- Duke, Norman C. 1990. "Phenological Trends with Latitude in the Mangrove Tree *Avicennia marina*." *Journal of Ecology* 78: 113-133.
- Eberhard, William G. 1990. "Animal Genitalia and Female choice." *American Scientist* 78: 134-141.
- Eberhard, William G. 1990. "Copulatory Courtship in the Wasp *Eumenes consorbrinus* (Hymenoptera, Eumeninae)." *Journal of the Kansas Entomological Society* 63: 342-343.
- Eberhard, William G. 1990. "Early Stages of Orb Construction by *Philoponella*, *Leucauge*, and *Nephila* spiders (Araneae: Uloboridae and Araneidae). *Journal of Arachnology* 18: 205-234.
- Eberhard, William G. 1990. "Genetialic courtship in *Acmaeodera impluviata* (Coleoptera: Buprestidae)." *Journal of the Kansas Entomological Society* 63: 344-346.
- Eberhard, William G. 1990. "Inadvertant Machismo?" (Letter to the Editor). *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 5: 263.
- Eberhard, William G. 1990. "Niche Expansion in the Spider *Wendilgarda galapagensis* (Araneae, Theridiosomatidae) on Cocos Island." *Revista de Biología Tropical* 37: 163-168.
- Eberhard, William G. 1990. "Use of Host Aggregations as Mating Sites by *Chrysagria alticophaga* (Diptera: Sarcophagidae)." *Psyche* 96: 45-47.
- Hughes, D.J. and Jackson, Jeremy B.C. 1990. "Does Ecological Stability Promote Complexity of Form? The Distribution of Bryozoan Polymorphism as a Test of Hypotheses." *Evolution* 44: 889-905.
- Karr, James R. 1990. "Avian Survival Rates and the Extinction Process on Barro Colorado Island, Panama." *Conservation Biology* 4(4): 391-397.
- Knowlton, Nancy, Lang, J.C. and Keller, Brian D. 1990. "Case Study of Natural Population Collapse: Post-Hurricane Predation on Jamaican Staghorn Corals." *Smithsonian Contributions to Marine Science* 31: 1-25.
- Martin, Thomas E. and Karr, James R. 1990. "Behavioral Plasticity of Foraging Maneuvers of Migratory Warblers: Multiple Selection Periods for Niches?" *Studies in Avian Biology* No. 13: 353-359.
- Santana, M., Eberhard, William G., Bassey G. and Prestwich, K. 1990. "Low Predation Rates in the Field by the Tropical Spider *Tengella radiata* (Araneae: Tengellidae)." *Biotropica* 22: 305-309.
- Wicslo, W. and Eberhard, William G. 1990. "Club Fights in *Macromerus* weevils." *Journal of the Kansas Entomological Society* 62: 421-429.

MOST RECENT EVENTS



Ernst Mayr (center), Martin Moynihan (left) and Olga Linares (right) during a reception given in Dr. Mayr's honor at the Tupper Conference Center.

(Photo: C.C. Hansen)

STRI team, I. Ivansic, A. Román, E. Lombardo, C. de Mendoza, N. Núñez and M. Morello, who worked at the inauguration of the Course on Conservation and Management of Natural Areas in Panama. →



Photo: M.A. Guerra



Elena Lombardo, (left) Assistant Director for External and International Affairs addresses participants and guests at the inauguration of the Course on Conservation and Management of Natural Areas in Panama, at the Tupper Center Auditorium on Feb 5. Ira Rubínoff, STRI director, Stanley Heckadon, INRENARE director and Francisco Dallmeier, Man in the Biosphere Program director, Smithsonian Institution (left to right) gave speeches to the participants during the event.

(Photo: M.A. Guerra)