

STRI newsletter

March 10, 1995

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 10

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tuesday, March 14, noon seminar speaker will be Bridget Stutchbury, York University, Canada and Eugene Morton, SI National Zoological Park

Why Tropical Songbirds are so different: Sex Roles, Song and Extra-Pair Matings

Abstract

Although extra-pair mating systems are the norm for temperate zone songbirds, we show that most tropical songbirds are indeed genetically monogamous. This results from the prolonged and asynchronous nesting period in tropical birds. As predicted previously by us, the atypically synchronously breeding clay-colored robin does have extra-pair matings. We discuss the implications of this fundamental and previously unrecognized difference between temperate zone and tropical songbirds.



Coffee will be served before noon seminar at 11:30am.

BAMBI SEMINAR

Thursday, March 16, Bambi seminar speaker will be John Barone, University of Utah, at 7:30pm, BCI

Seasonality and Herbivores

Reservations are essential.

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Jeffrey Brawn and Scott Robinson, Illinois Natural History Survey, Mar 12-23, to continue monitoring the dynamics of avian communities and population in Central Panama.
- Hans Schnitzler, University of Tuebingen, Germany, Mar 12-2 Apr, to work with Elisabeth Kalko in the echolocation and foraging behavior of neotropical bats, at BCI.
- Bernd Waldmann, University of Tubingen, Germany, Mar 12-2 Apr, to work with Elisabeth Kalko and Charles Handley, on the behavior of bats, on BCI.



On Thursday, March 9, the STRI Library opened its doors to the community after 7 months of remodeling of the old building. Its staff (from the left) Ricardo Beteta, Eleuterio Santos, Angel Aguirre, Elizabeth Sanchez, Pastor Rodríguez and Vielka Chang-Yau proudly received their first patrons at 1pm that day ••• El jueves 9 de marzo, la biblioteca de STRI abrió sus puertas a la comunidad, luego de 7 meses de remodelación del viejo edificio. Su personal (de izq. a der.) Ricardo Beteta, Eleuterio Santos, Angel Aguirre, Elizabeth Sánchez, Pastor Rodríguez y Vielka Chang-Yau, recibieron orgullosamente a sus primeros usuarios a la 1 de la tarde de ese día. (Foto: M.A. Guerra)

- Rainer Wirth, Alexandra Weight and Jurger Berger, Julius-von-Sachs Biowissenschaften, Germany, Mar 13-15 Sep, to study the effects of leaf cutting ants on tree canopy, at BCI.
- Bill Kintis, Neil Rettig and Kim Hayes, Kintis Productions, Inc., Mar 14-20, to film Scott Robinson's research on the migration of neotropical migratory songbirds for a film episode of *The New Explorer*.
- Robin Chazdon, OTS Executive Committee, to attend the board meetings at Tupper on Mar 19. She will visit BCI before the meetings.
- Paulo de Oliveira, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Mar 15-7 Apr, to work with Paul Colinvaux in processing sediment samples from the Brazilian Amazon, at Tupper.
- Silvio Marchini, Latin American Fellow, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, Mar 15-15 Jun, to study the impact of seed predation on seedlings recruitment, at BCI.
- Roberta Rubinoff, SI Office of Fellowships and Grants, Mar 15-22, to attend the Fellowship Selection Meetings.
- Julie Denzlow, Executive Committee and Roger Perry, OTS Board of Visitors, to attend the board meetings to be held at Tupper on Mar 19. They will visit BCI before the meetings.

- Members of the Tupper family, Mar 16, to attend the inauguration of the new library annex.
- Ross Simons, SI Acting Provost for Science, Barbara Smith and Bonita Perry, SI Libraries, and Lucy Dorick, SI Development Office, to attend the inauguration of the new library annex.

Congratulations

To John Mulligan and Connie Kolman for the birth of their daughter Mary Katherine Mulligan, on Wednesday, March 1. Mary Katherine weighed 6lb.

Felicitaciones

- A Arturo Dominici Arosemena, quien obtuvo su licenciatura en biología con especialización en Zoología, con la tesis: Isópodos del Literal Arenoso de la Bahía de Panamá, el día 9 de febrero.
- A Beatriz E. Lara O., quien obtuvo su licenciatura en Biología con especialización en Botánica, con la tesis: Estudio Florístico de los Musgos Corticícolas en Arboles Mayores de 10cm de DAP y Helechos en el Sendero de Interpretación Panamá, Parque Nacional Altos de Campana, el 31 de enero.

Condolences

To Penny and Harry Barnes, for the death of her father Harry Gee, on Monday, February 28, at British Columbia, Canada.

New Honors

- Noris Salazar Allen was reelected for a second period as treasurer and chief editor of *Briolatina* by the Latinamerican Bryological Society during their meetings in Mar del Plata, Argentina, this past October.
- S. Rob Gradstein, STRI Research Associate from the University of Utrecht, was awarded the Augustin-Pyramus de Candolle Prize for his monograph *The Lejeuneaceae, Tribes Ptychantheae and Brachiolejeuneae*, published as volume 62 of the *Flora Neotropica* collection. This prize, which carries a cash award, was established with a sum left by will by A.P. de Candolle to this purpose, and has been given since 1850 every 4-5 years by the Société de Physique et d'Histoire Naturelle de Genève, for the best monograph in plant systematics. This is the first time this prize is awarded to a monograph on bryophytes. The award was presented at the Symposium "La Biologie hier et aujourd'hui" in the Palais Eynard, Genève, Switzerland, on November 11, 1994.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

At the Tupper Center

- Tue, Mar 14 ■ Noon seminar by Bridget Stutchbury and Eugene Morton, AUD
- Scientific Staff Meeting, LMR, 1:30pm
- Wed, Mar 15 ■ General Scientific Support Staff Meeting, Large Meeting Room, 2pm
- Thu, Mar 16 ■ Inauguration of the Library Annex, Corotu Plaza, 5:30pm
- Sun, Mar 19 ■ OTS Executive Committee and Board of Visitors Meetings, CH, 8am.

At the Culebra Marine Reserve

- Tue, Mar 14 *Colegio Internacional del Caribe*
- Wed, Mar 15 *Colegio Internacional del Caribe*
- Thu, Mar 16 *Colegio Internacional del Caribe*
- Sat, Mar 18 American Life Insurance Co.

At Barro Colorado Island Station

- Sat, Mar 11 Ministry of Education and CARITAS
- Sun, Mar 12 Visitors from Panama
- Sat, Mar 18 Ecology Organization from Penonomé
- Sun, Mar 19 Visitors from Panama

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AFCU New Branch Administration

Nueva Administración en AFCU

In a letter to the STRI staff dated February 28, Judy Smith, AFCU Smithsonian Branch, announced having accepted a new position at the main AFCU Office at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Fay McDonald is the new Manager for the AFCU Smithsonian Branch, and Pamela Ware is the new branch teller. "It has been a great pleasure working with the STRI staff and all of the STRI AFCU members..." stated Judy ••• *En una carta dirigida al personal de STRI del 28 de febrero, Judy Smith, Sección de AFCU para el Smithsonian, anuncia que aceptó una nueva posición en las oficinas principales de AFCU en el Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos. Fay McDonald es la nueva administradora para la sección del Smithsonian de AFCU, y Pamela Ware, su asistente. "Ha sido de sumo placer trabajar con el personal de STRI y todos los miembros de AFCU en el Instituto..." concluye Judy.*

Nota de Interés

A solicitud del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Panamá, se extraerá un kilogramo de suelo de Barro Colorado, para ser depositado en el Monumento a la Paz en Brasilia. Este acto reconoce la importancia de la Isla como área pionera en los estudios sobre los bosques tropicales en el primer bosque húmedo tropical oficialmente protegido en el Nuevo Mundo.

CONGRESO

Congreso Latinoamericano de Ecología

Mérida, Venezuela, Octubre 22-28

El Grupo de Ecología Animal de la Facultad de Ciencias de la Universidad de los Andes, invita al III Congreso Latinoamericano de Ecología que se realizará en octubre de 1995 en la ciudad de Mérida, Venezuela, bajo el auspicio de la Universidad de Los Andes, como homenaje al XXV Aniversario de la creación de la Facultad de Ciencias. Los objetivos principales de este congreso son ofrecer una tribuna para informar e intercambiar avances de investigación en Ecología Neotropical, así como reunir a investigadores para crear e incrementar lazos de trabajo que determinen una mayor colaboración internacional. El programa científico incluirá conferencias, seminarios, sesiones de ponencias libres, sesiones de carteles y cursos. Los tópicos a tratarse en el Congreso incluyen teoría ecológica; cambios globales; ciclos de nutrientes; patrones y procesos en ecosistemas; análisis y control ambiental; recuperación de ecosistemas degradados; biogeografía; sistemas de información geográficos; limnología; ecología de poblaciones; ecología de comunidades; manejo de fauna; interacciones planta-animal; ecofisiología; agroecología; ecología de vectores y salud humana; control biológico; declinación de especies; conservación; educación ambiental; y enfoques hacia el desarrollo sostenible. El costo de la inscripción antes del 30 de mayo de 1995 será de \$85 para profesionales; \$55 para estudiantes de postgrado y \$45 para estudiantes de pregrado. Para mayor información sobre congreso, tanto para asistencia o exposiciones favor visitar la Oficina de Becas de Educación de STRI en el Centro Tupper, o escribir a Jaime E. Péfaur, Secretario Ejecutivo, III Congreso Latinoamericano de Ecología, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de los Andes, Mérida, Venezuela 5101. Tel. (58)(74)4013-05 • Fax (58)(74)401286 • Télex (58)(74)7-4173 • E-mail: CLAE@ula.ve



Ten students from the Organization for Tropical Studies, Costa Rica, were introduced to the Tupper Center facilities and received a briefing on the STRI research activities, during their visit to the Institute that included a field course on BCI ••• Diez estudiantes de la Organización de Estudios Tropicales de Costa Rica fueron atendidos en una visita a las instalaciones del Centro Tupper y recibieron una charla sobre las actividades de investigación de STRI, durante su visita al Instituto, que incluyó un curso de campo en Barro Colorado.

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

Nematode Taxonomist/Systematist

The Department of Nematology, University of California at Davis seeks to fill a tenure-track position within the professorial ladder-rank series. Preference will be given to applicant at the assistant/associate level. The position is available July 1, 1995. The appointee will conduct research on the taxonomy, morphology and phylogenetic relationships of nematodes in all habitats utilizing comparative morphology and molecular biology. Will also provide teaching expertise at the undergraduate and graduate level and function as an information resource for the Department. Additionally, will serve as curator for the University of California Davis Nematode Collection. Must hold a Ph.D., have broad training and experience in systematics and taxonomy and experience in the area of nematodes. Applications must be received by April 15, including a c.v., statement of research and teaching interests, official transcripts, list of publications, submitted manuscripts, and reprints of pertinent publications, and the names and addresses of at least three references. Interested please send all information to Howard Ferris, Search Committee Chair, Department of Nematology, University of California, Davis, CA 95616. Tel (916)752-8432 • E-mail: hferris@ucdavis.edu.



Con la ayuda de un montacargas rentado de Grúas Salerno, el personal de Mantenimiento de STRI colocó un pedestal de granito de 1,800 libras de peso en la Plaza Corotú del Centro Tupper. Sobre éste se colocará un busto de bronce de Earl Silas Tupper, en reconocimiento a todo el apoyo recibido por él y su familia a STRI durante los últimos años. La develación del busto se llevará a cabo el día jueves 16 de marzo, durante la inauguración del nuevo anexo de la biblioteca.

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

STRI NEW PUBLICATIONS



Budd, Ann F. and Guzmán, Héctor M. 1994. "*Siderastrea glynni*, a New Species of Scleractinian Coral (Cnidaria: Anthozoa) from the Eastern Pacific." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 107(4): 591-599.

Burd, M. 1994. "Butterfly Wing Colour Patterns and Flying Heights in the Seasonally Wet Forest of Barro Colorado Island, Panama." *Journal of Tropical Ecology* 10(4): 601-610.

Condit, Richard. 1995. "Research in Large, Long-Term Tropical Forest Plots." *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 10(1): 18-22.

Eberhard, William G. 1994. "Evidence for Widespread Courtship During Copulation in 131 Species of Insects and Spiders, and Implications for Cryptic Female Choice." *Evolution* 48(3): 711-733.

Forget, Pierre-Michel, Muñoz, Edgar and Leigh, Jr., Egbert Giles. 1994. "Predation by Rodents and Bruchid Beetles on Seeds of *Scheelea* Palms on Barro Colorado Island, Panama." *Biotropica* 26(4): 420-426.

Herre, E. Allen. 1995. "Tests of Optimality Models." *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 10(3): 121.

Jackson, Jeremy B.C. and Cheetham, Alan. 1994. "Phylogeny Reconstruction and the Tempo of Speciation in Cheilostome Bryozoa." *Paleobiology* 20(4): 407-423.

Jaramillo, César and Rand, A. Stanley. 1994. *Serpientes Venenosas de la Isla Barro Colorado y Areas Aledañas*. Panamá: Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.

Jones, John G. 1994. "Pollen Evidence for Early Settlement and Agriculture in Northern Belize." *Palynology* 18: 205-211.

Los Bosques Nubosos. 1995. Supplement: Naturaleza Tropical, in *La Prensa* March 3, coordinated by the STRI Office of Fellowships and Education.

Schnitzler, Hans-Ulrich, Kalko, Elisabeth K.V., Kaipf, Ingrid and Grinnell, Alan D. 1994. "Fishing and Echolocation Behavior of the Greater Bulldog Bat, *Noctilio leporinus*, in the Field." *Behavior Ecology and Sociobiology* 35: 327-345.

Villalaz, Janzel R. 1994. "Morphometric and Biochemical Changes in Two Age Classes of the Tropical Scallop, *Argopecten ventricosus*, Under Laboratory Conditions." *American Malacological Bulletin* 11(1): 67-72.

Wellington, Gerard M., Allen, Gerald R. and Robertson, D. Ross. 1994. "*Xyrichtys perlas* (Labridae), A New Species of Razorfish from the Tropical Eastern Pacific." *Revue fr. Aquariol.* 21: 49-52.

Zotz, Gerhard and Winter, Klaus. 1994. "Photosynthesis of a Tropical Canopy Tree, *Ceiba pentandra*, in a Lowland Forest in Panama." *Tree Physiology* 14(11): 1291-1301.

MISCELLANEOUS

Fair at the International School

The International School of Panama will host a fair on Sun, Mar 12, starting with a 5 mile run at 7am (registration at 6am). There will be a lot of entertaining and sports, food, a Bingo at 2pm, a Tombola, an International Food Festival at noon, and a Tug of War finish at 3:30pm. All are invited.