



The Hum...

Las Gralarias Foundation Inc. Newsletter

Inside this Issue

Senor Tim's Tales	1
Foundation Update	1
Miller's Mariposas	2
Wisps from the Cloud Forest	3
Foundation Wishes	4
Volunteer Opportunities	4
Species profile	5
Thank You	5
Mission Statement	6
Board Members	6

SEÑOR TIM'S TALES

BY TIM KRYNAK, PRESIDENT

October brings the end of song bird migration here in Ohio, and I often ponder the fate of the countless birds that make a perilous trip south each year. For example, the Blackburnian Warbler, my first neotropical migrant that I encountered in Ecuador, drew me towards conservation in this region of the world. This bird is a regular visitor to Reserva Las Gralarias from October through April in their forests. Last winter another migrant, the Cerulean Warbler, was located on the reserve. This beautiful migrant nests in Ohio, very near my home, but has declined rapidly over the last few decades. I just learned from a recent study conducted here in Ohio that nesting occurs in areas with trees at least 25 inches in diameter or greater, without roads, trails or other disturbances. Conservation must continue in their nesting grounds, wintering grounds and migratory stopovers in-between. This past year we have nearly doubled the size of RLG thanks to everyone who donated to our mission. However, there is still deforestation taking place and we are looking at additional parcels to purchase to protect and regenerate

forest as needed. Here in Ohio there is also the need to protect the rare undisturbed forests. I believe that people are interested in helping, but often just need some direction on how to help. By donating to our organization you are ensuring wintering grounds in Ecuador are being protected. You can also join many organizations that are active in both hemispheres like: Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, and Audubon....Every dollar helps: 1, 5, and 25, 100, 1000...it does not matter and often goes a long way in conservation. For those have supported in the past, thank you! Others that have thought about it, now is the time! Give the gift of protected habitat this Christmas! Winter will be here and I do enjoy the snow. However, I think about the neotropical jewels and anticipate seeing them again. North or South America or anywhere in-between they always bring a smile to my face! Anyone can make a difference in conservation, just follow your heart. Mine has leaded me to Ecuador, but there are many stops along the way. Once you start you will be amazed at what can be accomplished. Thanks to all who have nature in their blood and the desire to protect, share, and enjoy what we can not live without!

FOUNDATION UPDATE

BY KATHERINE KRYNAK

Since our last issue of The Hum... LGF Inc. has completed the final transfer of funds for the purchase of the Santa Rosa River Valley, won an environmental award, and begun to plan for next year's fundraising and awareness building events. The end of the year is coming, but we aren't slowing down!

In September, Cleveland Metroparks presented Las Gralarias Foundation Inc. with an award they call a "Trash Oscar". It is an award given to Cleveland Metroparks employees who walk the walk as well as talk the talk. LGF Inc. won the "Best

Ensemble" Oscar for the work we have done with Reserva Las Gralarias in Ecuador. Congrats to us all!

We have also recently learned the identity of one of our unknown frog species which are heard in large abundance on RLG. Our new glass frog has been identified as *Centrolene buckleyi*. This species is listed as near threatened by the IUCN's Redlist and is a target species for Balsa de los Sapos amphibian rescue plan. Balsa de los Sapos translates to "raft of the frogs". Dr. Luis Coloma heads this rescue team and is excited to know that these rare frogs can still be found in Ecuador, since chytrid (Bd) has recently taken a brutal toll on this species. Our

RLG amphibian survey will continue next year, and Coloma's team will be visiting RLG to study the species present there and maybe our *C. buckleyi* will aid in a captive breeding program as part of Balsa de los Sapos.

Finally, I'd like to give everyone a great idea for a holiday gift for loved ones. A donation to LGF Inc. will go to help support our conservation efforts. It is truly a gift that keeps on giving. Please visit our website and click on "How can you help?" for an easy to fill out donation card.



Trash Oscar

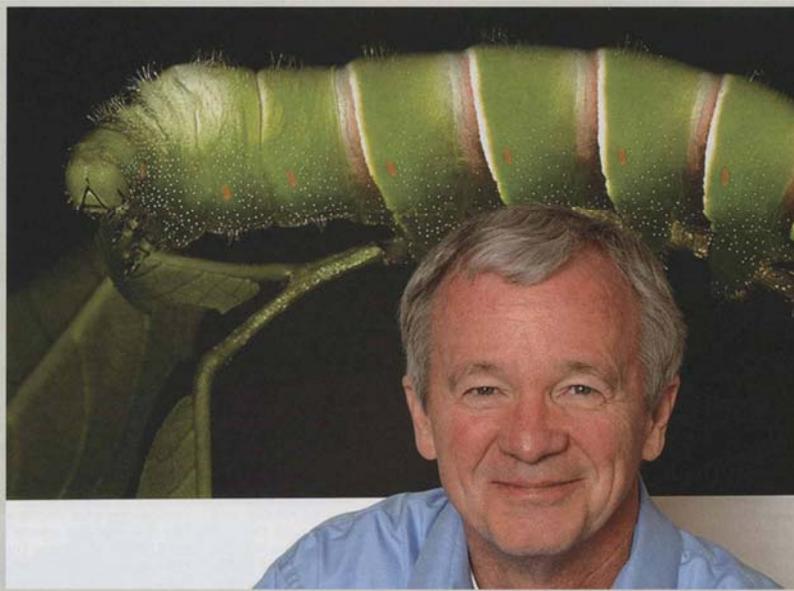
Calendar of Events

- December 7, 2007 Global amphibian crisis talk at Kiriltandian Society: LGF, Inc. display
- December 15, CBC at Reserva Las Gralarias
- 2008 YEAR OF THE FROG a global amphibian conservation awareness campaign. LGF, Inc. will highlight our amphibian conservation programs.
- January 8, 2008 Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society Global Amphibian Crisis talk/LGF Inc. display
- January 10, 2008 Medina County Park District, Global Amphibian Crisis .

Miller's Mariposas by Katherine Krynak

Jeffery Miller, Professor in the Insect Ecology and Biodiversity Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management at Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon is currently serving as a board member of Las Galarias Foundation Inc. He was born in Spokane, Washington, but now resides in Corvallis, Oregon with his wife, Jean E. Miller and his three children.

Jeffrey has visited RLG on two separate occasions, both times studying the diversity of butterflies and moths that are found in the cloud forest habitat. Below is an exurb from his book, "100 Butterflies and Moths, portraits from the tropical forests of Costa Rica" which describes some of his recent work in the field. Also below are a few of the beautiful photographs of which Jeffery shot during his visits to RLG in Ecuador. We are very excited about his studies on RLG and look forward to his future publications from his findings there. If you would like to learn more about the world of the Lepidoptera, please look for copies of this book as well as his book "100 Caterpillars" on Amazon.com



BEAUTY ON THE WING

BY CAROL SAVONEN

When Jeffrey C. Miller heads into the field to conduct research, he often totes along a photography studio. Miller, an insect ecologist in OSU Department of Rangeland Ecology, has schlepped his digital camera, computer, table, and a black velvet backdrop into the jungles of Costa Rica and Asia, as well as around the Pacific Northwest. This portable studio, plus patience and love for his subjects, have allowed Miller to study and photograph the diverse realm and spectacular beauty of butterflies, moths, and their larvae.

For most of his 30-year career, Miller has focused his studies on the biological control of pest insect species, in particular the biology and feeding habits of the

gypsy moth caterpillar, a forest pest. He has studied how efforts to control such winged pests affect other species of butterflies and moths, and how insects can be used to control weeds in the Pacific Northwest. Along his professional journey, Miller has become a world-renowned photographer of caterpillars, butterflies, and moths. He has published six illustrated books, including two large-format volumes on caterpillars, butterflies, and moths of Costa Rica.

Miller began photographing caterpillars and butterflies as a way to help identify species of larval moths and butterflies for his research. Most insect manuals identify only the adult stage and rarely include the caterpillars.



"When biologists collect caterpillars in a new area, they usually have no idea what species they are," explained Miller. "We have to beat the shrubs, collect the caterpillars, and rear them carefully in the lab in order to learn what kind of butterfly they each turn into." The wiggling captives are brought back into a lab and reared individually in containers along with the plants on which they were collected. Once the caterpillars change into adults, Miller photographs them again and identifies each species of butterfly or moth.

"We have to beat the shrubs, collect the caterpillars, and rear them carefully in the lab in order to learn what kind of butterfly they each turn into."

"When we finally rear the larva into an adult, we have the record and photograph of the caterpillar it once was. Once identified and photographed at each stage, we can make the link between the butterfly or moth and its caterpillar and its habitat, in particular its food plant. In many cases, this has never been done before."

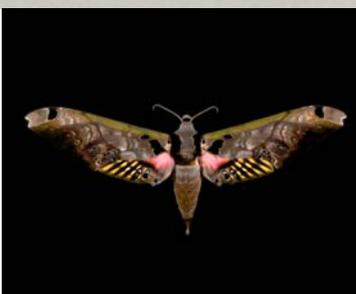
"Some years I have reared, photographed, and identified more than 7,000 specimens in a single field season," he said.

In 2003, Miller's work caught the attention of Dan Janzen, a University of Pennsylvania tropical ecologist whose special interest is moths and butterflies of Costa Rica. Working with Janzen and Winifred Hallwachs in Costa Rica, Miller photographed the dizzying variety of shapes, colors, and cryptic markings of flamboyant tropical caterpillars, butterflies, and moths.

Their work culminated in the book, *100 Caterpillar Portraits from the Tropical Forests of Costa Rica*, published by Harvard University Press in 2006. The book, featuring Miller's large-format photographs and Janzen's encyclopedic knowledge of local ecology, won the National Outdoor Book Award for Design and Artistic Merit. It was followed by a second book, *100 Butterflies and Moths: Portraits from the Tropical Forests of Costa Rica*, in 2007.

Now working closer to home, Miller has embarked on research and photography for a new book about the conservation of sensitive species of butterflies and moths in the Pacific Northwest, with his colleague, OSU lepidopterist Paul Hammond. He hopes his work and his books will help people learn about and protect biodiversity.

"There is no doubt in my mind that when we have knowledge about something, we tend to take better care of it," he said. "You can't care for something if you don't know anything about it." OAP



Adhermarius sexoc



Purple-throated Woodstar



Violet-tailed Sylph



Euryglottis aper

Wisps from the Cloud Forest

by Jane A. Lyons



Robinson's Mouse-Opossum

We are beginning to get a better idea of some of the mammals that call Reserva Las Galarias their home. And they are surprising us!!! Thanks to our new night cameras we have found species walking our trails close to the guest house that we had no idea were coming in so close – including Collared Peccary and Dwarf Red Brocket Deer. Both of these are species that have been heavily hunted in this general zone so it is quite nice to see healthy individuals living here at the Reserve. We have some photos also of the very elusive Little Spotted Cat or “tigrillo” as well as various agouti and squirrel which are common but not too easy to see in this area. Tim photographed a new species for the reserve – a Robinson's Mouse-Opossum and has documented a variety of bat species. We also have recent sightings and some photos of Rothschild's Porcupine, Western Two-Toed Sloth, Kinkajou (a mother and young), Tayra, White-nosed Coati, and White-tailed Deer. We are still waiting for our first photos of Puma, Spectacled Bear, Mountain Coati (a group of 10 recently seen!), Western White-fronted Capuchin monkey, among others. Much work is still needed to begin to understand these creatures, a number of which are considered threatened species and which include some of the least studied mammals in the world. This is one more reason that we are eager to get our research station up and running.



Spectacled Whitestart

Summer was short this year. By mid-September we began to have some rain and by mid-October we had quite a lot of heavy rains. As a result we have been able to begin our tree seedling planting period early this year. Our first northern migrant bird species, a vocal Western Wood-Pewee, was recorded at the new guest house on 1 October. At our new 500-acre site, now known as the Damuth Chocó Research Station (DCRS), we will soon begin planting trees and bird-friendly flowers near the house and along the road while allowing the pastured areas to begin to regenerate. This site adds an impressive addition to our elevational range, with a hill that reaches up to 7200 ft (2400m) so that our protected habitat corridor now ranges from 5100-7200 ft (1700-2400m), that is, an altitudinal range of 2100ft (700m)!

In addition to the altitudinal range, we have added some new bird species to the reserve list. Recent new bird species recorded by resident guide Charley Hesse at DCRS include some higher altitude species such as Red-crested Cotinga, Great Thrush, Spectacled Whitestart and Grass-green Tanager.

Our work at the DCRS now includes some minor renovations to the existing houses, gating and fencing as well as habitat restoration. We are also getting ready for the 2007 Christmas Bird Count on 15 December and invite all you birders to come help!

In addition to the list of mammals seen on RLG stated above, just this week a spectacled bear was seen walking up the road near the new property next to canyons trail! How amazingly exciting!





Foundation **Christmas** Wish List

- * **Weather Station**
- * **Infrared video camera (cuddeback) \$350 each**
- * Digital Scales
- * pH meter
- * Dissolved Oxygen Meter
- * Photos from Reserva Las Gralarias
- * Recording equipment for bird
- * Biology/natural science children's books for Los Exploradores (in Spanish)
- * Flora/Fauna Field Guides/books of Ecuador (in Spanish and English)
- * Insect nets/dip nets (collapsible)
- * Hummingbird feeders
- * Rechargeable batteries and charger
- * Laptop computer
- * Ultra Light Hennessey Hammock for exploration of new property
- * Fishing Seine

For more information contact Katherine Krynak at glassfrog04@hotmail.com

Fundraising/Volunteer Opportunities

- * We are still looking for potential donors to be added to our electronic mailing list. Please send contact information to Jo Ann Kubicki at jak1@clevelandmetroparks.com
- * Matted Prints of photographs from the reserve are needed for donation gifts. Email Tim Krynak at tkrynak@aol.com for more information. Black mats to be used for Tim's photos are also always appreciated.
- * Volunteer(s) needed to print and coordinate sales of T-shirts for Las Gralarias Foundation Inc. as well as other promotional items. We need your creativity! Becky White has volunteered to design our LGF T-shirts! Thank you Becky!
- * Volunteers needed to present programs within their communities to raise money for the Foundation and spread the word about our wonderful conservation initiatives of RLG and LGF.
- * If you have anyone interested in being on the distribution list to receive *The Hum...* please contact Katherine Krynak at glassfrog04@hotmail.com
- * If you have questions or would like to contribute to LGF, Inc. in another way, please give us a call at 440-777-6353



Golden-naped Tanager



Crimson-rumped Toucanet

Species Profile

By Katherine Krynak

The pig like Collared Peccary (*Tayassu tajacu*) is a member of the order Artiodactyla, and family Dicotylidae and is the smallest species of peccary. They are distinguished by their four hoofed toes on each of the front feet and three of each of the back feet. Their strong molars and dagger shaped canines (tusks) are needed to root up and munch their favorite foods of roots, seeds, and fallen fruits. This species has an incredibly large home range within North and South America in both habitats of desert and forest. They are known to exhibit altruistic anti-predator behavior in that one individual of a family group will confront a predator (like a puma) while the remaining family members escape. This past month, the infrared cameras on RLG have caught this creature along Senor Tim's Trail. Who knows, maybe the next digital glimpse of this animal might be in the belly of the resident Puma!



Collared Peccaries
on Senor Tim's trail



Gracias y Feliz Navidad!

A big thank you to all of you whom have helped LGF Inc. reach our goal of purchasing the land of the Santa Rosa River Valley!

We did it! It's official!

Thank you to our recent donors and volunteers!

Dave Lewis and Lauri Boylen for presenting a program on Ecuador for the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society, Becky White for volunteering to design LGF Inc. T-shirts, Kiwanis Club of Berea, Jean E. Glatte, Robert Hopp, and Catherine Shambauugh for their donations to LGF Inc., The Koppelberger Family and Wayne Toven of the Greater Akron Aquarium Society for their purchase of an acre of cloud forest!

*Las Gralarias Foundation Inc.
24140 Gessner Rd.
North Olmsted Ohio, 44070*



The goal of Las Gralarias Foundation Inc. is to raise funds for projects and programs of Reserva Las Gralarias, located in the parish of Mindo, Ecuador, including the purchase of adjacent and nearby lands that will enhance protection for rare endemic birds, plants and other animals as well as supports reserve management, reforestation efforts, biological research, environmental education projects, scholarships, and appropriate tourism programs.

LAS GRALARIAS
FOUNDATION INC.

501 (c)(3) organization

www.lasgralariasfoundation.org



**Las Gralarias Foundation Inc.
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President: Tim Krynak (*Ohio*)

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Secretary: Katherine Krynak (*Ohio*)

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The Hum...

Las Gralarias Foundation Inc. Newsletter

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