

The Hum...



Las Galarias Foundation Inc. Newsletter

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Señor Tim's Tales by Tim Krynak, President

During my most recent visit to Ecuador in August, I had the pleasure of accompanying my brother Ed Krynak and LGF treasurer, Jo Ann Kubicki. It was Ed's first visit to the reserve and he found himself fascinated by insects, their adaptations and behaviors. He spent hours observing tarantula hawks while they would search, find, subdue and drag their prey back to their burrows for their prodigy. The questions started: How many tarantulas go into one burrow? How big of an area do they hunt? How do they find tarantulas? Do they prefer a specific size? So much to learn!

This was also Jo Ann's first trip to the tropics and she seemed overwhelmed by the beauty and diversity. Her camera clicked away recording her experiences and the flora and fauna that we encountered. The steep terrain tested her stamina as we climbed many hills on the way to the bird banding nets, or as we went out in search of frogs at night. Certainly a trip to remember.

Both of Ed's and Jo Ann's experiences were very different. I hope that they both came home with a greater appreciation of the beauty, diversity and most important the urgent need to protect this

ecosystem. *(The forests are still disappearing as they become farms.)* I hope that one day that they will return to see the progress LGF is making in conservation efforts. I also wish that all reading this publication have the opportunity to visit these forests and to be part of protecting this priceless resource.



Ed Krynak volunteering at the bird banding station



Calendar of Events

- October 26, 2006 Talk at Kent State University, The Global Amphibian Crisis
- November 4, 2006 Flippers n' Frogs Wing's n' Suds Fundraiser sponsored by the American Association of Zoo Keepers
- December 16, 2006 RLG Christmas Bird Count
- February, 2007 Animal Attractions fundraising event for LGF at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo



FOUNDATION UPDATE BY TIM KRYNAK

The good news! We continue to make ground in our fundraising efforts to the "Santa Rosa River Valley Project" with a couple of fundraising events coming up in the next two months. It is imperative that we can purchase this parcel as the deforestation is increasing at an alarming rate. We have an anonymous donor that is willing to donate a large sum of money, but we have to match the amount. So, please if you know anyone that would

be interested in supporting this project they can contact at/or donate to:

Las Galarias Foundation Inc.
24140 Gessner Rd.
North Olmsted, OH 44070

The not so good news... The IRS is extremely backlogged on tax-exempt applications and ours is in a pile waiting to be processed. It will be several months before they even get to our application submitted last

April.

Continued on page 4.



Tim taking photos on the newest parcel of Reserva Las Galarias

Conservation Corner by Ed Krynak

Ten Days in Ecuador



Ed Krynak enjoying RLG

Every one should have the opportunity to spend ten days in Ecuador. After several years of nagging my brother Tim, our schedules finally matched up in August of this year.

Of the ten days on the trip, eight full days were spent at Reserva Las Galarias. Those eight days were just enough to provide a glimpse into the great biodiversity of Ecuador, and give me a taste for more. I don't consider myself a serious birder, but even I was impressed by the variety of hummingbirds, the powerful woodpecker's playfulness, and of course the sight of a huge toucan's bill emerging from a nest cavity.

Arthropods are more my area of fascination, and let me tell you, eight days was not long enough. Eighty days would not



Katydid's amazing camouflage

be long enough. There were thousands of individuals and dozens of moth varieties every night. Their sizes ranged from

a pencil eraser to the size of an open hand. At night as we searched for frogs, the forest crawled with spiny katydids, hidden walking sticks, leaves that got up and walked away, and beetles that scurried among glowing fungus. During the day, I had my favorite arthropod experience. The life and death struggle of a tarantula hawk and its prey. On several occasions I had the opportunity to be amazed as a two inch, iridescent blue wasp dragged a paralyzed tarantula back to its hole. Buried in the wasp's hole, the tarantula will provide a living meal for the wasp larva.



Tarantula Hawk and her prey

Ten days in Ecuador, eight days on the reserve, and I haven't even mentioned the reptiles, mammals, vast numbers of frogs, or the countless species of plants we saw. All these organisms amazingly evolved and adapted for life in the cloud forest, and it was the dry season.

What would the wet season bring? I definitely have a taste for more.

As we drove away from the reserve and eventually flew towards home, I noticed something: new roads. I noticed roads leading to new buildings, freshly cut forest, and leading into virgin forest. Most people understand the importance of conservation. Everyone should spend ten days in Ecuador so they can understand and appreciate the great diversity that is being conserved by organization like Las Galarias Foundation and Reserva Las Galarias.

More importantly, so they can realize how important it is to act now!

Board Bio: Jo Ann Kubicki

Your Chance to meet and learn a little about one of our board members



Jo Ann was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio and lived most of her life in the Cleveland area. She now resides in North Royalton, Ohio with her ferret, Little Ferret. She works in the Outdoor Education Division of Cleveland Metroparks and has been there for nearly 15 years. As a volunteer for the last 11 years, she has had a wonderful, rewarding and educational experience being

part of a bat research team, netting and identifying bats found in the northeast Ohio area. She also does field research on amphibians and wetland birds. She enjoys bird watching, archaeology, genealogy, historical research, and any activity that gets her outdoors to enjoy the wonders of nature.



Jo Ann, Ed and Tim waiting for birds



Wisps from the Cloud Forest

by Jane A. Lyons



Summertime this year has been excellent, with plenty of rain to keep the trees growing, the frogs chirping and the bird activity high.

On 2 September along Parrot Hill Loop I watched a very fuzzy just-fledged Crested Quetzal bungle its way around a small tree. It was very near the larger tree we had assumed held the nest since the male adult was always seen perched nearby. Both Crested and Golden-headed Quetzals are still very active, vocal and probably nesting along various trails at the reserve. From July to October our resident guide Bryan Wainwright monitored another Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan nest, along Waterfall Trail, which had two adults tending it for several months. Finally, a fledgling was observed with an adult near the nest tree on 16 October. On 19 October a Mindo Bird Tours guide saw a family of 2 adult Dark-backed Wood-Quail with 3 chicks along Puma Trail. On 14 September we heard and saw our FOS northern migrant, a surprisingly vocal Western Wood-Pewee, in front of the new guest house, and on 7 October our FOS Blackburnian Warbler, a female which I think must be the same one that hangs around the house every year.



Our very powerful Powerful Woodpecker continues to whack his double knock on his favorite drumming tree near the houses, and there are more sunset serenades of Moustached Antpittas and Strong-billed Woodcreepers than ever before. Shy forest birds such as Sickle-winged Guan and Dark-backed Wood-Quail are providing regular sightings. Plus we now have several “territories” on the reserve of the unique Club-winged Manakin, although nothing that would qualify yet as an established lek.

Our weekly bird records have found some 120 species regularly occurring somewhere on the reserve, with dozens more recorded more sporadically. The addition of Barred Puffbird in October gives us a total of 227 species recorded on the reserve.

We have had some nice mammal sightings as well – Mountain Coati, White-nosed Coati and a Tayra along Sr. Tim’s Trail, and Long-tailed Weasel along Brothers’ Trail.



One of the exciting aspects of reforesting and planting so many flowering plants is the amazing variety of butterflies and moths we are now seeing. Hundreds of species of moths blanket the walls at night when we leave the lights on (and are often visited by our resident Mottled Owl). And we are finding some stunning caterpillars on various plants around the houses. So far we have been able to hatch in captivity at least one apparent day-flying moth, a beautiful *Arctiidae*.



Five of the species of orchids collected from fallen trees by volunteers last year are now in bloom and are almost as spectacular as the moths and butterflies.

The guest house has been active with visitors from as far away as Mali, West Africa and Johannesburg, South Africa, as well as from the U.S., Canada, and Europe. The new guest house is finished and will have its first guests in November - volunteers from California who will help with documentation on the reserve, including two high school seniors planning their senior project.

We are looking forward to our next amphibian survey in December as well as the Christmas Bird Count, scheduled for 16 December, with a total of 5 volunteers to be here working for that week.

Some day we hope to have the additional 200 hectares and a real research station.



Foundation Update *Continued*



Santa Rosa River Valley

We are still working towards our goal of raising enough money to purchase the 200 hectare Santa Rosa parcel. Many thanks to those individuals that have donated to this project since the last quarterly newsletter.

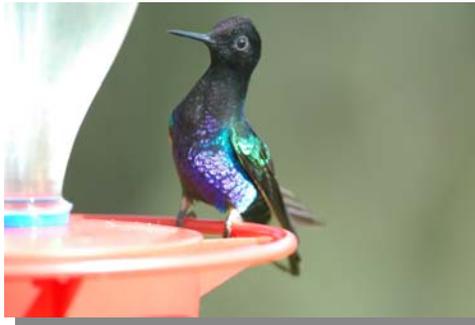
Thanks also goes out to those who have donated school books and supplies as well as the hummingbird feeders for the school children of Escuela Rio Tumbez. Los Exploradores will truly enjoy them!

Dave and Jan Shearer
Rocky River Nature Center 's
Trailsiders Volunteers
Debra Shankland
Spencer and Wilma Duffey
Akron Aquarium Society



Hummingbirds at feeders

Species Spotlight New moths discover at RLG



In 2005 a German researcher Volker Pelz visited Reserva Las Galarias to study the vast variety of micro moths that can be found at this location . Here is a brief summary of his findings.

"In total I collected 347 specimens of Tortricidae [moths] which seem to belong to ca. 70 different species. At the moment it is not possible to give an exact number because there may be sibling species as well as dimorphic ones...In the last year we finished the following articles on Tortricidae from Ecuador which are all in print now. Some will be published this winter but most of them during next year. For all papers I give the species recorded from Las Galarias."

From the new species of moths that he describes from this visit, one is named for the reserve *Hynhamia lasgalariae* and one for Jane Lyons *Dimorphopalpa lyonsae*.



A sampling of moths at RLG

To those who have
Not yet learned the
Secret of true happiness,
Begin now to study
The little things in
Your own door yard.
-George Washington Carver



Black lights used to attract moths





Foundation Wish List

- * HOBO Weather Station
- * Digital Scales
- * pH meter
- * Conductivity Meter
- * Dissolved Oxygen Meter
- * Photos from Reserva Las Gralarias
- * Digital Recorder and PC software for analyzing sounds

- * Biology/natural science children's books for Los Exploradores (in Spanish)
- * Flora/Fauna Field Guides/books of Ecuador (in Spanish and English)
- * Video camera
- * Night vision camera
- * Insect nets/dip nets
- * Hummingbird feeders,
- * Headlamps/flash lights
- * Bird/Bat netting equipment

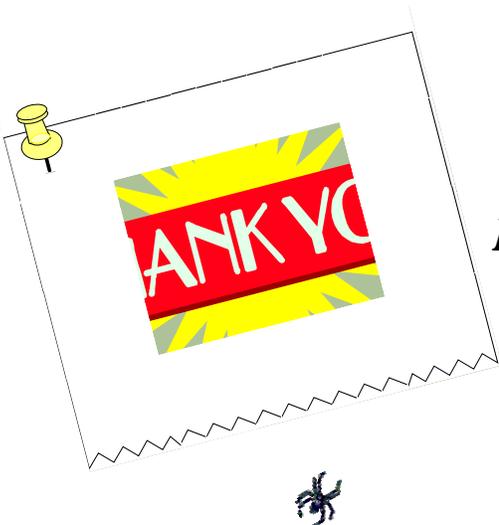
- * Laptop computer
- * Laptop weatherproof case
- * Walky talkies
- * Emergency chair

For more information contact Kathy Duffey at gassfrog04@hotmail.com



Fundraising/Volunteer Opportunities

- * We are still looking for potential donors to be added to our 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.
- * Volunteer(s) needed to create, print and coordinate sales of T-shirts for Las Gralarias Foundation Inc.
- * Volunteers needed to present programs within their communities to raise money for the Foundation.
- * Volunteer needed to translate the newsletter into Spanish to be posted on the website.
- * If you have anyone interested in being on the distribution list to receive *The Hum...* please contact Katherine Duffey at gassfrog04@hotmail.com



A big thank you to all of our recent donors!

Donations can be made to :

**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.

www.lasgralariasfoundation.org



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Las Gralarias Foundation Inc. Board Members

President: Tim Krynak (*Ohio*)
Vice President: Jane Lyons Ph.D. (*Ecuador*)
Secretary: Katherine Duffey (*Ohio*)
Treasurer: Jo Ann Kubicki (*Ohio*)
Bob Barth Ph.D. (*Texas*)
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