### Rain forests used for ag expansion mismanaged

UNIVERSITY PARK -Misunderstanding and mismanagement are destroying the world's jungles and they could be gone in 20 years, says Penn State's David L. Pearson, an internationally known specialist in tropical rain forest ecology.

Tropical rain forests, he contends, determine weather patterns, form one of the last potential sites for agricultural expansion, and contain a living chronicle of earth's evolutionary history. "They are the most complex ecosystems on earth," he adds, "and the terrestrial area we know the least about."

Dr. Pearson, assistant professor of biology, has conducted research in rain forests throughout the world and has published over a dozen scholarly papers on jungle ecology over the last four years. Recently, he was invited to be a featured speaker at the Fourth Pan

African Ornithological leads to altered weather Congress to be held later this patterns via increased year in the Seychelles Islands.

Pearson frequently focuses on birds in his research because, he says, "they are the one tropical group about which scientists already know a great deal and are also good subjects with which to test general ecological patterns.

To illustrate, Pearson explains that tropical rain forests contain the greatest variety of bird species of any area on earth — more than 400 in a 300-mile-square area versus about 100 in a similar forest area in the eastern

"This pattern of extreme diversity, along with a similar pattern in plants, suggests that traditional onecrop agriculture (monoculture) will not work in these areas," he says. "And, in fact, wherever monoculture has been attempted, it has invariably failed.'

In the jungle, Pearson notes, nutrients are not stored in the soil but are maintained in the plants and animals. Leaf litter and other organic debris is almost immediately recycled and reabsorbed into the plants.

Wholesale clear-cutting, as practiced in eastern Peru, for example, leaves behind relatively infertile soil and

convection currents. dissipation of rain storms and an eventual drying up of the region.

In addition, the jungle's disappearance robs scientists of a unique opportunity to study evolution, Pearson believes. "Rain forests may be the areas in which birds originated," he says, "and they probably give a more accurate insight into normal bird communities than any other place on earth."

Tropical rain forests occur in a broad band circling the globe near the equator. Although they are radically different from forests in temperate areas, Pearson says they rarely fit the popular image of hot, steamy, impenetrable tangles of vegetation teeming with hostile tribes and ferocious beasts. He says the forest floor is actually darkly shaded by the taller trees, there is little ground cover, and travel is fairly easy. Local tribesmen are usually friendly and helpful and hostile animals are rarely encountered. Pearson admits that the jungle does hold some discomforts — mosquitos, for example — but he claims to have met more annoying varieties in Minnesota. "All in all," he says, "tropical rain forests are benign and comfortable places.

### Wine grape growers to meet

Southeast Grape Industry
Association on Sunday, March 7 at the Farm & Home

Southeast Grape Industry
This figure is expected to double during the next Center, Arcadia Road, Lancaster. Members from the fourteen wine grape Pennsylvania vineyards to growing counties of help meet the demand. southeastern Pennsylvania Leading wine grape growing will attend, plus invited counties are Lancaster.

Featured speaker will be and Franklin. Robert M. Ivie, president of Guild Wineries Distilleries, San Francisco, World ag ed the nation's largest growerowned wine and brandy conference producing cooperative. Guild markets such wellknown brands as Winemasters Guild, Cresta Blanca, Roma, Tavola and Cribari

Pennsylvania's Deputy youth leaders from around Secretary of Agriculture the world met here recently Jane M: Alexander, a leader to begin planning for the in promoting wine grape First World Conference in growing in Pennsylvania, Agricultural Education to be and State Representative held there in November, Marvin E. Miller of Lan- 1976. caster County.

wine-producing facilities in the 1976 National FFA California with an annual Convention and will include crushing capacity of 250,000 an "International Ag tons of grapes, will speak on Olympics" competition in "The Demand for Wine." farming skills such as

develop into one of the major judging.

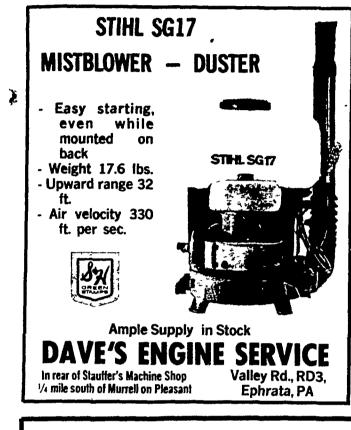
LANCASTER - A special wine-producing regions of salute to Pennsylvania's the U S Wine consumption is wine grape growers will be growing rapidly throughout given at a meeting of the the country, exceeding 360 decade and thousands of dollars have been invested in guests from nearby states. Bucks, York, Berks, Adams

# planned

KANSAS CITY, Mo. -Special guests will be Agricultural educators and

The World Conference will Mr. Ivie, whose firm has be held in conjunction with

The wine grape growing tractor operation, areas of southeastern mechanics, dairy and Pennsylvania are attracting livestock judging, hornational interest and may ticulture, poultry, and meat



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