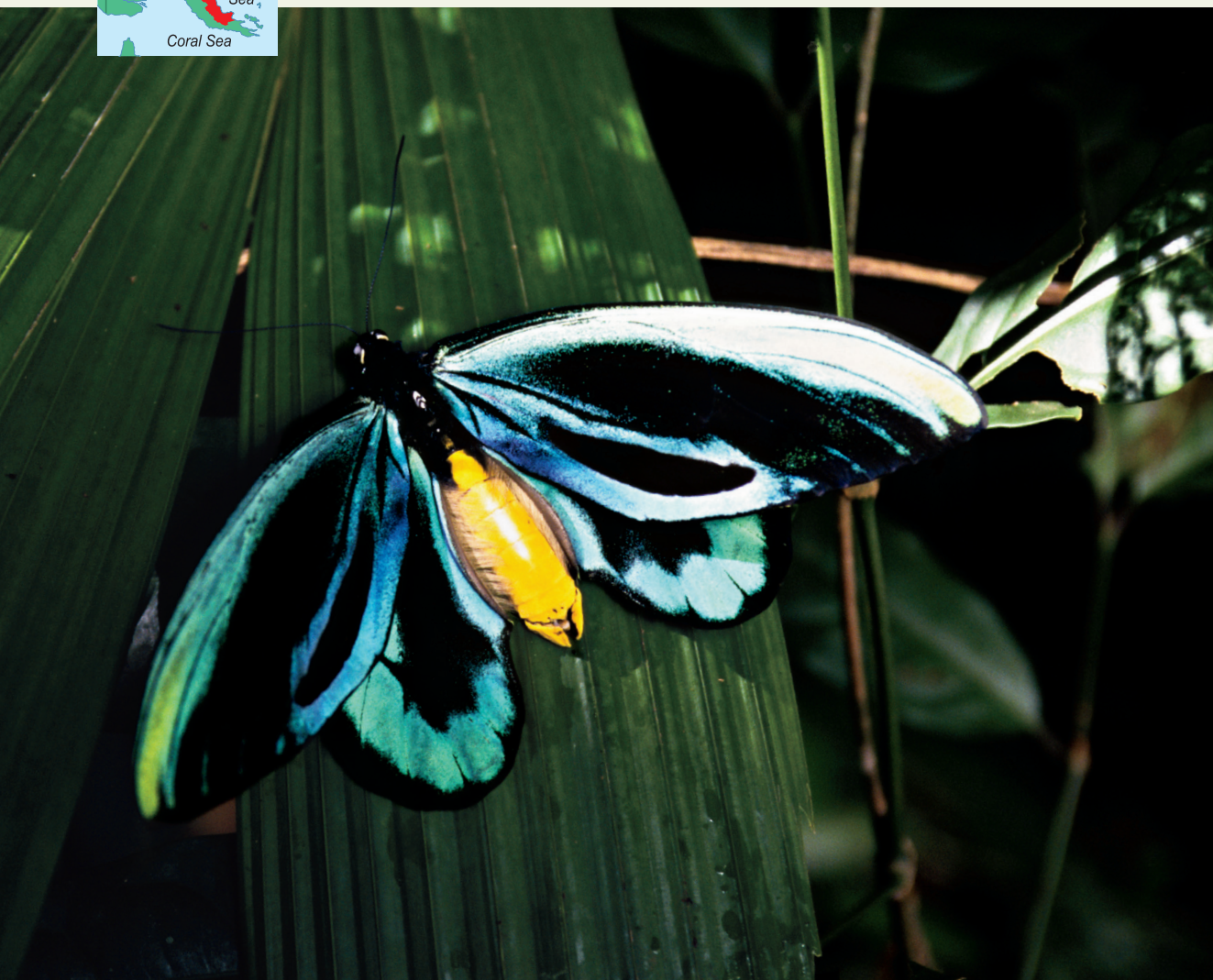




## Queen Alexandra's Birdwing (*Ornithoptera alexandrae*)

**Size:** Body length, 8 cm; forewing length, 11.9 cm **Weight:** 12 g **Habitat:** Primary and secondary rain forest in the tropical mountains of Papua New Guinea **Surviving number:** Unknown; declining rapidly



Photographed by François Gilson

# WILDLIFE AS CANON SEES IT

A giant among butterflies. Queen Alexandra's birdwing is, in fact, the largest in the world. Females are bigger than males, but only males sport a bold bluish green. In their short 3-month adulthoods, females lay as many as 240 eggs each; growing larvae have a very specialized diet, eating *Aristolochia* vines exclusively. But the forest habitat

on which these rare butterflies depend is vanishing quickly, and they also continue to fall victim to the international trade in dried specimens.

As Canon sees it, images have the power to raise awareness of the threats facing endangered species and the natural environment, helping us make the world a better place.



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