



One of our baby White lipped Peccaries enjoying Leandro's left over food!

What's Inside...

2 Observation Update

5 Auto Camera Feature

8 Local News and Update

4 Species List

6 Palma Real

9 Animal Rescue Center Update

Observation Update

Over the last 6 years Taricaya has seen many changes to the way observations work, And recently we have been forced into a position to change the site of 2 of our observation points, firstly with the repair/re-construction of the Canopy walkways lower platform.



(The old lower platform)



(The new lower platform)

This platform was originally built in 2003, so after almost 5 years it was time to change the whole structure. This work was undertaken by Pepe, who has been helping us a lot over the last few months, with building my new room, helping out on the new kitchen, a lot of repair work around the lodge and now this, we also have some more work planned for him next month too and as you can plainly see, its obvious why we have been asking Pepe to help us out so much, he is a very talented carpenter and the difference between his work and our work is pretty hard to miss!

This moves us on to our next update with observations. New farm has been around ever since the farm was properly built up; firstly with the platform by the main house, then it was moved over to the goat field, now it's being pulled down again and moved to the guinea pig house. Again this work is being done by Pepe, who will start doing the work in April, so we will get some photos sent out to you ASAP!

The main reason this platform is being moved is because the structure is again getting a little old, so as a safety precaution we have already stopped using it and won't be back there until it's fully re-built and re-painted. The second reason we have decided to move New farm platform is because we are fairly certain that the platform will produce more variety of species in its new location, mainly because the side of goat field never really gave us a lot of different species where as we always saw a lot more towards the main farm area, so now we hope that we will be surrounded on all sides by birds.

As we have not been using these two platforms this month, we have been experimenting with different observation points, of course the classic of HOB and Walk are still with us, but we were always one point short, so instead of using another walk, we decided to see what the lodge area had to offer. Now this may sound like a easy option, no walking to the platform, hammocks to use, toilets and refreshments close at hand...But it was not like this at all, we realised that there were many different species of Seed-eater and Tanager flying around between the buildings and of course we could easily monitor the creek and the main river.



(Rachel and Benna looking along the creek – Daniel gazing at something else...)

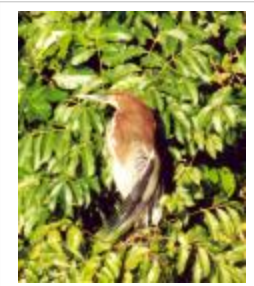
The first few observations we had here worked really well, with us seeing many different species that we don't see so often and never so close either! But unfortunately when the last Friaje came it stopped a lot of the smaller birds from moving around and since this Friaje has not stopped yet we have decided to halt this observation until the weather warms up a bit, so we will bring you more detailed news of this observation area when we have more data.

Another thing that has changed with our observations lately is the time, although we are very close to the equator here in Peru, we still have a slight change in sunrise and sunset, about 1 hour earlier in summer and 1 our later in winter, so throughout the year we have to change our observation times slightly to catch the "rush" of birds moving around. Those of you, who remember well, will be aware that about 30-60 minutes after sunrise and before sunset there is a lot more movement and then suddenly there is a lot less, so this is the best time for us to observe birds.

At the moment we are starting observations at 05:45 and finishing at 07:45 and in the afternoon we now start at 15:15 and finish at 17:15 to catch as much movement as possible and still have enough light to move around safely.

Species List

Since 2005 Taricaya has been working hard in creating an accurate and up to date species list, which now includes 359 birds, 54 mammals, 42 amphibians, 54 reptiles and 105 species of butterfly. Various methods have been used to collect this data from mist-netting to manual capture.



Rufescent Tiger-Heron



Black-Collared Hawk



Amazonian Royal-Flycatcher



Dwarf Caiman



Surinam Toad



Common Mussurana



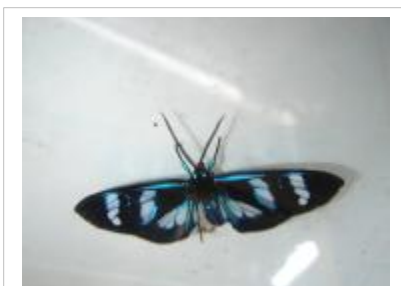
Brown Capuchin Monkey



White Lipped Peccary



Tayra



Auto Camera Feature

The Auto-Cameras use infra red sensors to detect movement (Like a burglar alarm) which then activates the camera. They have memory for 150 photos and rechargeable batteries which last for up to 1 month. Completely water proof, they can be left out in the jungle in all conditions.



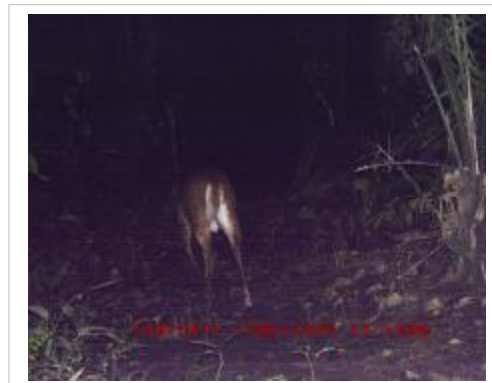
Great Tinamou



False Scorpion



Brown Agouti



Red Brocket Deer (Male)



White Lipped Peccary



Agouti Paca

Palma Real Update

For nearly three years we have been trying to get our foot in the door – so to speak – with the community of Palma Real. A little bit of back round information for you all first – Palma Real is a relatively new community, only about 100 years old really, which was set up with the work of Catholic priests that came to do missionary work in Peru and the Amazon.

The Native people of the lower Madre de Dios region naturally lived in small groups, a few families in one place, then a few more in another and so on, with the main hub in one place, far away from large rivers lakes. But when the priests came, the first thing they did was round-up all the locals and move them to two area, one called Palma Real (With around 300 people living there), which is located about 1:30 hours further down river than us and one called Infierno, which is located about 1 hour from Puerto Maldonado itself (this one accessible by road)



(Volunteers just after arrival in the town)



(A typical house of Palma Real)

Over the years many NGO's have entered the community with good intentions but little foresight (One of them actually built a cement water tower and fitted tubing to a local fresh water creek, gave them a generator and water pump – But failed to provide a daily budget for them to run it all so now it stands mainly un-used), the early ones insisting that the community hold on to their native activities and try not to change at all (Whilst they were giving them western clothes, western food and many other habits that westerners have developed) So the community has developed a mentality that they should have everything given to them on a plate...Now as you all know this is not the way Taricaya works, we help those who help themselves. So our first attempt to work with them failed as we were not insistent enough with them (Our first attempt being in 2005 when we planned to build a dam for them so they could use a water wheel to pump their water – All we asked is that they cut the wood for the structure – we gave them our chainsaw, gasoline and all the measurements. The chainsaw was returned a month later with no sign or news of any wood) So about 6 months ago we began trying again, this time with something a lot smaller in regards to work, but that should have a huge visual impact and give them more confidence in us as well us in them.

So far our plans and negotiations are going very well, we have been speaking with the teachers of the community who seem to have a lot more power in the town (The community actually has a president who rules over the town but seems to be more of a puppet of the teachers) and have decided upon an interesting new idea, Palma Real has a really bad rubbish problem, with no collection system or a place to dump it, so

most it goes on to the floor and is left there which you can imagine is a horrible sight – Using one of our donkey’s and a specially designed cart we are fairly certain we can help them set up a system of rubbish collection and transport to an area away from the town and we have also managed to get the community to promise to cut the posts for the donkey enclosure and plant them as well as organise a “Community Day” where with the help of Taricaya volunteers, staff and hopefully most of the community we will clean the whole town of rubbish, so in one day they can see the huge difference a clean community can make.



(Thinking of the future, if things don’t change soon the next generation will have a lot of problems)

In fact all Taricaya will have to do is put the wire on to the posts, bring the donkey and spend a few hours explaining and showing the community what the donkey can do, which will be done via a variety of demonstrations.

This work will be started and should be completed early next month as there isn’t a huge amount of labour, then we hope that they will see we can provide sensible, long term solutions, that cost them next to nothing and begin to trust us a lot more and begin putting more and more work into our ideas. We will also begin to slowly start suggesting bigger projects, which as you can hopefully tell means we are potentially embarking on a major new route for Taricaya and hope to bring you some great news on this project soon.

Local News and Update

Happenings in Puerto Maldonado and Snippets of Taricaya News

Volunteers Leaving

In April we said goodbye to - Marius Gutter, Jef Craps, Helen Bodnar, Matthew Andrzej Stefanowski, Birgit Suzanne Delbos

Thank you for all your help at the reserve, we really couldn't do a lot of the work we do here with out your help.

New Volunteers IN APRIL

Birgit Suzanne Delbos, Sophie Jean Wilson, Camilla Mary Durie, Hannah Burd.

See you all soon! Hope you'll have a fantastic experience with usJ.

THE MAGIC OF WIRELESS...

This is actually more of a personal triumph, but I am so happy with it I can't resist telling you all! For almost 2 months I have been trying to get my wireless internet working on my laptop with no success and of course like most things on computers one day it suddenly worked and it hasn't stopped yet! Of course we don't have any connection in Taricaya, but there is a hotel in Puerto that I use on weekends, Cabana Quinta. Needless to say this making administration work so much easier!!! See you all online at the weekends!

JUNGLE FACT!

Rain forests have three to four different levels:

- Emergent layer (top most level; tops of the tallest trees as tall as 150 feet)
- The canopy (tops of trees ranging 60-90 feet tall)
- The understory (trees of up to 50 feet tall; trunks of canopy trees; new trees)
- The forest floor (branches, roots, leaves, little vegetation, thin layer of soil)

2 YEAR DELAY ANNOUNCED ON THE HIGHWAY!

When work on the highway was announced they promised it would be finished in 4 years, but just 2 years in to it, they have already been set back. The road through the mountains won't be finished for a long time because the mighty Andes are holding out against explosives... Now the builders are trying to find a new way to make the road wider, who knows when that will be!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PUERTO

BIRDS OF PERU

After 15 years of work the new Birds of Peru identification book was released a few months ago and Taricaya now has 4 copies between the staff! This isn't just an amazingly detailed and well written book, Its especially great because Mauricio (Bird man from Arequipa!) was asked to work on it! He helped to make the distribution maps! Mauricio for those of who never met him is the leading force behind our bird identification project and has been presenting this project around the Americas on our behalf. Another Taricaya claim to fame!

LOST IN TRANSLATION

Over the last month we have been receiving a lot of offers from other reserves and universities for English translations of websites, DVD subtitles and pamphlets. So always trying to improve Taricaya relations we have been accepting everything we can with all the capable staff doing one piece each. And from that day forth I vow I will never do a translation of Fernando's again! We have a new DVD of Taricaya made by a local University where Nando did a lot of talking, but its only when you read what he says that you realise how much he repeats himself and how often "Este" and "Ummm" are used! Bless him...

If you have any ideas of how Projects Abroad volunteers can be put to good use within the Community then please contact either Richard Munday or Stuart Timson. We are always looking for your suggestions.

Rescue Centre Update

Although still fighting for the permits for the animal rescue centre, we have had a lot of progress in the last few months, with an inspection from INRENA (The government department responsible for Flora and Fauna) and more arrivals and departures!

One of the most important things we feel we need to talk about at the moment is of course Winnie (Our female Brazilian Tapir). Sadly Winnie was shot by a local farmer, but we are not blaming him for the incident entirely, obviously its his fault that he did shoot her, but he was a new guy to the area and had no idea that Taricaya was running an animal rescue centre! So when Winnie came in to this kitchen he assumed he was dealing with a stupid animal and not something we had released back in to the wild. As you can now understand we blame ourselves because we should have been working more with the local families to try and let them know and understand what we are doing and why.



(Baby Winnie – Only a few months old)



(Winnie a few months before she released herself)



Probably the last photo ever taken...

As we spoke about last month we have already made major progress with our baby howler monkey, finding him a good companion in our night monkey and brown capuchin. Something else we have recently learned though was that the diet we were providing to our howler monkeys was not sufficient to provide them with all the nutrients needed to live healthily. Now this might seem like a major failure on our part, but we have always tried our best when it comes to food for the animals

www.projects-abroad.net

<http://www.volunteer-conservation-peru.org>

and have done a lot of research in the past on all the animals' diets. The only reason we came across this new information was because of a vet that visited us back in January called Talia. When she returned to Lima to finish her studies she came across a course on wild animal diets so attended to see what she could learn for us.

The expert giving the course was more than happy to provide detailed information for us and Talia was kind enough to send this information with recommendations on which fruits/vegetables/plants would be good to substitute. After almost one month of this new diet we have seen a major improvement in our young howler monkey. Of course we are going to make sure this continues for the future so that we can begin to release more howler monkeys back into the wild.

Along with the changes in the howler monkey diet, we have also adjusted the diets of other animals. Now the jaguars are getting a lot more variety (Brain, eyes, intestines ETC) all the monkey's are provided with leaves and the toucans are now eating egg shells all of the animals have begun to look even more healthy than before and we hope of course that this will speed the recovery of all the animals we are releasing.

And now finally for our Rescue Centre Update, we have a few more new arrivals with us!

About a week after I sent you our last report we had 3 more animals come to us.

The first was another yellow ridged toucan, this was put in with the other toucan as soon as it arrived and has already begun to socialise with them as well as improve the colour of its feathers which is the first sign that a bird is returning to good health again.



(Above: Our new Toucan. Left: One of the Baby Spix's guans)



At the same time as the toucan we also received two Spix's Guan chicks, being very young we are of course slightly worried they may not survive the cold nights during Friajes, but we are of course trying everything we can and during their first month with us we have seen a lot of improvement in their appearance and behaviour, we just hope we don't create another monster like Turkey...

As usual we are always looking forward to hearing from you all! Years have passed since some of you have spoken to us, some of you have only just got home and still have not gotten in touch to say you are safe, it does not matter how long it has been, we still want to hear from you sometimes! What are you doing? Where are you? Who have met recently?

Those of you meeting up with Taricaya volunteers we really do want photos for our Reunion section in the New dining room, remember though, you need to find an interesting way to

www.projects-abroad.net

<http://www.volunteer-conservation-peru.org>

include the phrase “Projects Abroad – Reserva Ecologica Taricaya” Write it in Bananas and Papaya, find a small monkey on the road side and get him to hold a sign up for you, paint it on your chests, we have a few amazing ones already which have began appearing on Projects Abroad publicity, so you never know you might be famous...

Also we'd like to know if you guys have any questions about anything. Anything about the rainforest that you want to know about and didn't learn whilst you were here? Or maybe something you've forgotten? Let us know for our Question area of the newsletter and also we would love to hear about an experience you had at Taricaya, something you still remember or something that made your time here perfect, share with everyone, let us know!

And remember that we also have a Taricaya website, which is full of information and updates from our own Stuart Timson, located at <http://www.volunteer-conservation-peru.org>

So until next month keep safe and good bye!

Richard Munday
Reserva Ecologica Taricaya
Puerto Maldonado Office
Perú
Email - richardmunday@projects-abroad.org
Phone – (0051 82) 98270 0655
MSN Messenger – [rickym41@hotmail.com](mailto:rckym41@hotmail.com)