



What's Inside...

Project Updates:

Bat Project	2	Rodent Project	3
Bird Mist-netting	3-4	Rescue Centre Update	4-6

Extras!

Volunteer Arrivals & Departures

PROJECT UPDATES

The months of July and August have been rather busy here at Taricaya, with an influx of volunteers who came out here for a short time during the summer between finishing high school and starting university, or during their university vacations. It is also the time of '2 week specials', where high-school aged kids come to volunteer for two weeks.

During this busy period we arrange a number of additional projects and activities to take place, and as a result, the past month has been a particularly interesting one...

BAT PROJECT

For the final two weeks of July we were lucky enough to be joined by Hugo Zamorra from the University of Arequipa. Hugo specializes in mammals, with a specific interest in bats, and came to Taricaya to run a bat-netting project with the objective of assessing which bat species inhabit the reserve during the dry season. Over the course of the two weeks, mist-nets were installed in three different locations around Taricaya: New Farm (including by the river); around the canopy walkway (including one net on the canopy platform itself!); and in and around the freshwater creek that runs through our reserve.

Four species of bat that are new to Taricaya were caught, bringing the total Taricaya bat database up to 38 species (there are 165 species in the whole of Peru).

The day that one of these new species of bat was found prompted Hugo to declare that it was one of the happiest days of his life! *Noctillio leporinus* is a rare type of fishing bat, which incredibly uses sonar to detect and pinpoint a fish underwater from the ripples it creates on the surface.



RODENT PROJECT

Hugo was joined here by his colleague, also from Arequipa University, Cesar Medina. The objective of Cesar's project was to monitor and investigate the occurrence of small mammals, rodents and marsupials around Taricaya. Peru is actually the third most diverse place in the world for mammal species (behind Brazil and Mexico), and so Taricaya is an ideal place to study these. Through the use of Sherman, Tomahawk and pitfall traps Cesar and his team of volunteers captured 15 species, including 12 that were new to Taricaya. These included rice rats, spiny tree rats, many species of opossums, plus in one trap a rather angry saddleback tamarin monkey was waiting!



BIRD MIST-NETTING

Once Hugo had finished his bat project, the mist-nets were then re-deployed around Taricaya by Mauricio Ugarte, also of Arequipa. Mauricio has been coming to Taricaya since 2005 and has published a number of studies from his work here (some co-authored by our very own Stuart Timson).



Starred Wood Quail

Taricaya reserve is an excellent place to monitor birds due to its location between the mountains and the pampas grasslands. Migratory birds also pass through the area, further increasing the species of birds it is possible to see here.

Mist-netting provides a great opportunity to identify and photograph birds, and as such gives us a good opportunity to increase our Taricaya bird species database.

During the two weeks over which this project was running we managed to add 6 new species to our database, bringing our total up to 434, and taking us closer still to the world record of 540 species spotted in an area of less than 500ha.

Birds captured included a starred wood quail (which has previously been identified at Taricaya but is an exciting find nonetheless) and a fawn breasted tanager, a migrant bird never before captured below 600 metres in Peru. Also identified was a masked yellowthroat (pictured).



Masked Yellowthroat

Whilst netting near to the river, Mauricio also spotted a Maguari stork, of which there have been only a handful of previous sightings in Peru.

And just to prove that you don't always have to be mist-netting in remote parts of the reserve to make a good find, one day whilst lounging in the hammocks at the lodge, Mauricio spotted a streaked xenops, another new addition to our species list!

RESCUE CENTRE UPDATE

The large volumes of volunteers this month have been put to good use working on improvements to the Animal Rescue Centre.

A large new enclosure for the short-eared dogs has now been completed, and a small enclosure adjoining the Animal Hospital, to be used for future breeding projects, has also been constructed.



The pools in the enclosures of Sid the otter and the jaguarondis, along with the tapir pool, now look much better having been lined with cement, which also makes them far easier to keep clean.

And the spider monkey pre-release site has also had a lot of work done: the camping and observation areas are ready, and the enclosure itself has had a last few finishing touches made, and now awaits the arrival of the monkeys themselves at the end of August (hopefully, but by no means guaranteed!).



A former resident of the Rescue Centre has been returned to us: Cheeky Bastard, the saddleback tamarin monkey, was loaned out for five months to another project where he was used to lure in and capture other tamarin monkeys for DNA analysis. He is now back at Taricaya serving six weeks in quarantine, after which time he will be assessed for release.

Every once in a while the Rescue Centre has a new arrival that creates a bit of a stir around Taricaya...



At the beginning of August a large crate returned with the volunteers at the end of a weekend in Puerto Maldonado. Inside was a four month old jaguar called Bella. She had been found close to the Brazilian border, in a ditch and alone, and with a bite wound to her leg. The people who found her gave her to the Peruvian government, who in turn passed her on to us. She will stay with us for at least one

month, after which time we will decide whether she is staying with us or going to a zoo or a different rescue centre.

For an animal this young release as an option is always difficult, as by the time she is old enough to be considered for release she will have imprinted upon humans and become too tame, as well as not having learnt to hunt for herself.

.....

Hi,

If you would just like to send a note, we would love to hear from any of you who have volunteered at Taricaya, it doesn't matter how long you were here for or how long ago, we're always interested in what you're doing or where you are now.

We welcome your feedback for the newsletter as well, what would you like to see or hear about here every month. Also if you have any queries about the rainforest (or Peru), we have a number of qualified biologists on the team who would be very happy to answer any of your questions. For quick updates or information about Taricaya, check out our website at www.volunteer-conservation-peru.org, or you can reach us through the Projects Abroad website at www.projects-abroad.net.

Have a good month, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Dan Howell
Volunteer Co-ordinator
Reserva Ecologica Taricaya
danjhowell@hotmail.com