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* T R e e S N E W S *
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* July 1986 *
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TReeS Takes Root

With the production of the pamphlet 'Tambopata Wildlife Reserve Appeal' and its strong endorsement by Dr Norman Myers, TReeS is firmly rooted as a going concern. Our immediate aims are well in hand - to compile and make available information on Tambopata, to provide support by sending out books, information and other materials, and to establish a working fund to cover costs. Once we receive charity status we hope to raise funds on a large scale, in conjunction with other interested groups, to implement a detailed management plan for the Reserve. However, as the news from Tambopata given below shows, Tambopata needs help NOW. We are asking each of you to collect signatures on the enclosed declaration of support for the proposed expansion and increase in status of the Reserve, which we will send to President Garcia of Peru and also to the Peruvian Ministerio de Agricultura y Alimentacion, which deals with the proposal. If each member collects 25 signatures we will have a list of 1400 to send, so please do your best. Forms should be returned to the above address by the end of August.

Before giving you news of Tambopata, here is a progress report on some of TReeS' activities. Each section ends with suggested action you can take, and we hope you will not only help individually but will also contact or put us in touch with organisations who could help in these ways. In addition, we will be collecting declarations of support from relevant organisations to be sent to the Peruvian authorities with your signatures.

PROGRESS - INFORMATION SERVICE

A reference store on Tambopata is now available for general use at the library, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London SW7. A list of documents held is available from TReeS, as are photocopies (cost 4p per sheet, plus postage if outside the UK). TReeS has already given considerable help to the seven people who have gone from the UK to work at Tambopata as naturalists this year, and has been able to send out news and some materials with these people; we hope to have first-hand reports from some of them on their return.

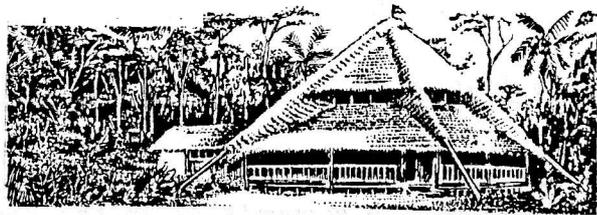
ACTION - Those of you who have been to the Reserve, please send in details of any work you did there, however informal. We would particularly like to hear from past naturalists and scientists at Tambopata who may be able to pass the message on to others they knew there.

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TReeS committee:-

Sophie Allington, Long Close, Great Wymondley, Hitchin, Herts S64 7ET
Sue Herring (Treasurer), 37 Rusper Court, Clapham Road, London SW9
Kevin Morgan, 64 Fairford Gardens, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 7BJ Tel 01-337-2725
Helen Newing (Secretary), 59 Redcliffe Road, London SW10 9NQ Tel 01-352-3931

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* News from Tambopata *
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Life on the Reserve

Tambopata is now in the middle of the dry season. Extra staff were employed to maintain the trails when they began to dry out at the end of April, in preparation for the high season for tourists. A giant river otter was seen for the first time for months in mid-April - which supports the previous year's findings that they are easier to find in the dry season (possibly because as the forests dry out they stay near the lakes and rivers). At the Explorer's Inn itself, the new dining-room is complete. It was built around the tree trunk which was central to the building burnt down last September and is in the same style, but the upper storey is larger than before and will be used as a bar and display area. In May construction work began on a separate building providing living- and work-space for the resident naturalists. The library will also be housed there.

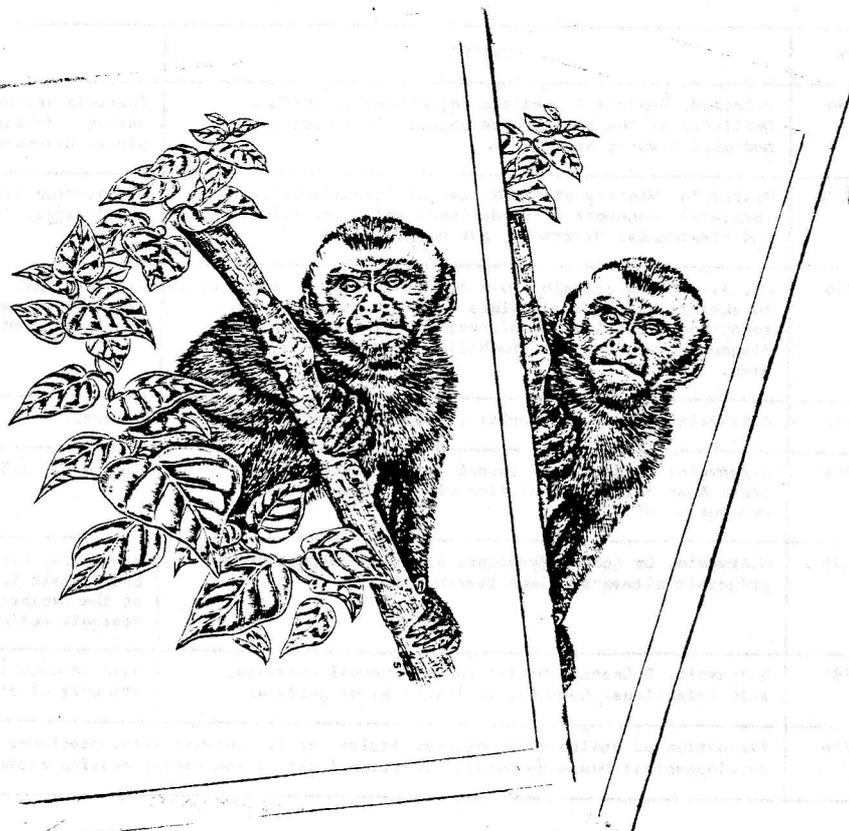
Meanwhile, we understand that the capuchin Rodney (featured on TReeS pamphlets) is still swinging around in the trees behind the kitchen ...

The Bad News ...

There were a number of damaging incursions onto the Reserve in May. Trees have been felled within the Reserve on both sides of the La Torre river, and also opposite the settlement at Tres Chimbadas. A temporary shelter was built and a large cedar felled at Katicocha, up to now the least disturbed of the lagoons within the reserve. Katicocha is known to be home to all five species of kingfisher found on the TWR, as well as the rare giant river otter (Pteronura brasiliensis) and endangered black caiman (Melanosuchus niger), but its proximity to the La Torre river makes it especially hard to protect. The management at Explorer's Inn are doing what they can to stop these incursions but have no real authority until the TWR's status is updated.

And the Good News ...

Due to a world drop in oil prices, Shell has suspended its survey of an area including the TWR for oil. The Reserve is thus temporarily relieved of one of its greatest threats, but Shell may return if oil prices swing back. TReeS has been in contact with Shell International and has been assured that their Peruvian companies "endeavour to conduct their activities with due recognition of their responsibilities towards the environment and that every effort will be made to respect the plans for Tambopata and to avoid any conflict with the aims of the Reserve Society".



"Capuchin monkey"
Greetings cards
25p each or £2 for 10
from Sophie Allington
(TReeS), Long Close,
Great Wymondley,
Hitchin SG4 7ET, Herts.