

This time we're sending you mainly news from Tambopata itself - the latest newsletter produced there, which we have only just received and translated from Spanish, and a more recent report from Oliver Phillips, who has recently returned to England from Tambopata. TReES activity here lulled over the end of the summer, but our part in a 3-week exhibition in September attracted a fair amount of attention and led to the chance of

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another exhibition in January. A few hundred signatures were collected at the exhibition for our declaration of support for the Reserve expansion, which we will send to the Peruvian authorities; PLEASE WILL THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE COLLECTED SIGNATURES SEND IN YOUR FORMS STRAIGHT AWAY.

Before the news from Peru, here's a report from our treasurer before she leaves us and sets off for the wilds of Papua New Guinea ...

Treasurer's Report (by Sue Herring).

Since February when the society had its first meeting, the bank balance has risen steadily thanks to the generous donations and efforts of the members and friends of the society. It is especially encouraging to have received donations from Canada, the USA, Spain and Peru itself. Keep sending it in!

By June, only four months after we took our first £2-50 subscription, we had the staggering total of £578.83 in the bank - so we thought we'd better spend some! It was agreed at committee meetings that if the society is to continue helping Tambopata Reserve, then it must enlarge its membership and become stronger and more active. To this end we have spent quite a large chunk of the money collected so far on leaflets to publicise ourselves. Optimistic as we are of success we have kept the printers busy producing:-

1500 Tambopata Wildlife Reserve Appeal leaflets - cost £251.00

2020 Tambopata Reserve Society Application Forms - cost £118.45

Ugh - sounds a lot of money doesn't it! But to really do lasting good to Tambopata Reserve we need to provide long-term support - we think of this money as having been invested for the future.

During July people were still sending in money so we felt rich enough to buy three much-needed books for the Reserve. Still feeling well off we gave £200 towards the medicinal plant survey being carried out at Tambopata by Bioresources. By the end of October our bank balance was looking a little sorry for itself standing at £19.62; Since then we've had two generous donations bringing the total up to £157.01.

As you may remember, we've had 1500 Greetings Cards printed which we still have to pay for. So, not liking to see money idling in the bank we've paid £100 towards their cost leaving £120.80 still to pay. Now it's up to YOU - the society needs continuing support. Please use the publicity leaflets to help find new members, try some Capuchin monkey cards as Christmas presents and help rejuvenate the bank balance.

And now for something completely different ...

So far, in its short life, the society has flourished - but it won't survive a drought (of cash or enthusiasm). All of you can help to keep it alive, sow seeds of interest to germinate new members, or raise funds to prevent TReES from wilting. It would be a tragedy if it were cut off in its sapling days. It desperately needs volunteers to commit themselves to help. Helen Newing, the secretary, has been the loving and caring cultivator of the society, tending it as it has grown up from a seedling, but I shall be going to Papua New Guinea in January to teach, so we need a new treasurer (Knowledge of Maths not essential!) Now's your chance to actually do something!

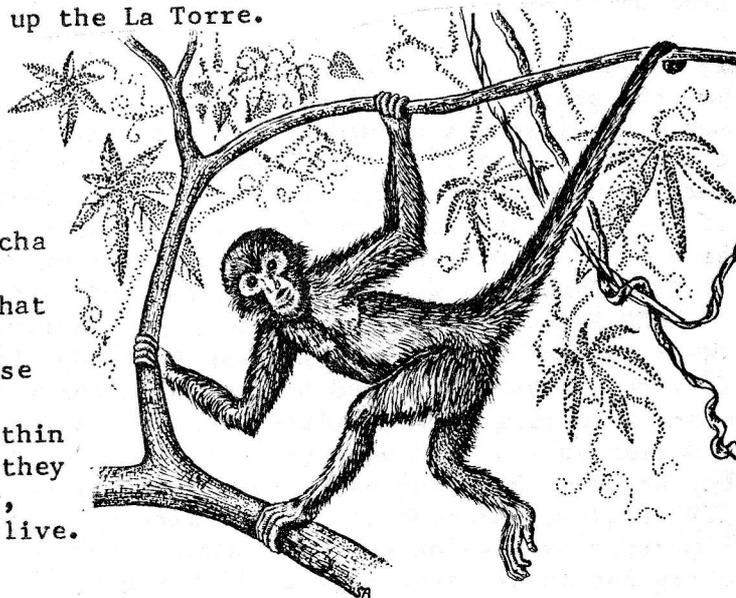
Enough of my moaning - thanks to everyone who has contributed enthusiasm, effort or money so far. Have a happy Christmas and make a resolution to help us again next year!

News from Tambopata

- A report from Oliver Phillips, recently returned from his work as Resident Naturalist on the Tambopata Reserve.

The last three months have seen the pressure on Tambopata increasing. Hunting and logging on the Reserve continues, especially on the far side of La Torre river, but more ominous is the appearance of the first chacras on the Reserve. Two thousand hectares of the Reserve below the lake Cocococha overlap with the land of the Native Community of Infierno, and immigrants from the Andes are now turning their attention to this area. Most days in August would begin with the sound of a chainsaw buzzing on the other side of Tambopata river, as Jose Armas Jr. cleared a new 4 hectare area. The hot September sun quickly dried the felled vegetation so that it could be burnt one afternoon in a spectacular fire; meanwhile thousands of other fires in Madre de Dios generated a smoky haze that lasted all month. It was abundantly clear that Tambopata can ONLY survive if the expansion and its attendant ecodevelopment projects go ahead within two or three years, so if you haven't written to the Ministry of Agriculture in Peru or filled your declaration of support with signatures, please, please do so. Paul Franklin has painted a big sign to mark the Reserve on the far side of La Torre river, which will be put up in a ceremony with officials from the Ministerio de Agricultura y Policia Forestal. We hope this will help to dissuade people from hunting and logging in the Reserve up the La Torre.

On a more positive note, several animal sightings suggest that the Reserve's ecological integrity has not yet been badly damaged. Two spider monkeys were seen at Cocococha - spider monkeys are not on record for the Reserve, but it is known that two tame ones returned to the wild there some years ago. If it is these that were seen, it is encouraging that they have survived so long within the protection of the Reserve; or they may have come from further upriver, where spider monkeys are known to live.



A rare 'short-eared dog' was seen on the High Forest section of the Main Trail, and the family of giant otters on lake Cocococha were seen several times. Meanwhile, Ted Parker of Louisiana State University has found five new bird species for the area. The only pet at the Lodge is a baby spider monkey whose mother had been shot, and Rodney the capuchin monkey (model for TReeS cards) still comes back occasionally to be fed eggs - he cracks them open on a branch and lets the white drip out before slurping up the yolk!

The new naturalists building is complete with three bedrooms and enough workspace for four naturalists. Didier Lacaze, the former manager of the lodge, is working for AMETRA and coordinating with Michel Alexiades of Bioresources to collect more information on traditional use of medicinal plants, and to reintroduce these remedies through AMETRA's Native Community programme of courses and back-up visits. Naturalists have put up a TReeS display and are selling the Appeal Leaflet, as well as postcards and information sheets, to visitors. As well as providing a valuable service we have raised about \$60 in three months; this money will go towards display materials and, we hope, more signs around the Reserve's borders.