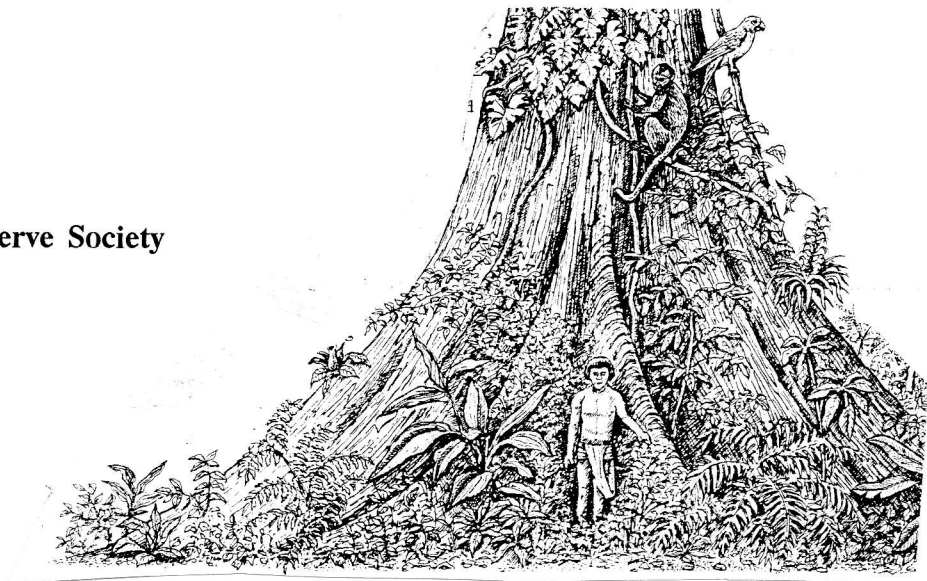


# TReeS News

The Tambopata Reserve Society  
Newsletter, No. 13

January 1990



## Reserve News

Significant recent sightings at the Reserve include a great potoo on Laguna Chica, an ocelot - the size of a German shepherd dog - on the main trail, and two tamondee also on the main trail. Someone undertaking research in the canopy discovered a brown-banded puff bird, believed to be the second recorded sighting in Peru. The observer managed to photograph it and record its song. Current naturalists are studying a species of bamboo bird, and the feeding behaviours of certain types of dead leaf specialist birds. The Missouri Botanical Gardens compilation of a checklist of the ferns and flowering plants of Tambopata is continuing and more specimens have been collected this summer.

A new inventory of the hectare tree plots, which were first established in 1983, has also been started. This will make it possible to compare different forest types at Tambopata to see which are the most diverse and, through the measurement of growth and mortality, which are the most dynamic.

There were some very heavy storms in October, perhaps indicative of climatic changes caused by rain forest destruction to the east, and there were a number of tree falls in the Reserve.

Economic and political problems in Peru continue but Madre De Dios and Puerto Maldonado are still free of any incidents. In fact, it is perfectly possible to travel to most places of major interest to visitors within Peru. However, a U.K. Foreign Office directive in June, following the murder of a British tourist in a remote part of the Andes in exceptional circumstances, advised people not to travel in Peru. Consequently, at least two groups who were intending to study at the Reserve over the summer were obliged to make alternative arrangements. This included the Rannoch School expedition, whose members were planning to bring a considerable amount of canopy access equipment with them. Despite having to go elsewhere, Rannoch School has advised us that it still intends to make a donation to the work of TReeS/AMETRA as a result of its fund-raising efforts.

Following the successful visit to Europe of Didier Lacaze, the TReeS representative in Peru, several individuals have made generous donations to TReeS and AMETRA. a number of the organisations visited by Didier also requested additional information about the organisations so as to consider funding or making donations. These details have been sent.

Now back in Peru, Didier is finalising the appointment of the TReeS Scientific Co-ordinator at the Reserve, who task will be to oversee the research work being undertaken there and improve the level of continuity in research work. An appointment is expected before the end of 1989 and it is intended that this post will be funded entirely by TReeS USA.

## Support for Peruvian RNs

The third and fourth students to go to the Reserve as Resident Naturalists will do so before the end of December 1989. Their airfares are covered by a grant from the Peruvian Government, and their subsistence at the Reserve by TReeS. The latter amounts to \$150 (approximately £90), per student and could be an ideal amount for a school to raise. In return, schools involved in supporting RNs will receive a copy of the student's research report, and hopefully, photographs of her/his research project. Could you help set up a school sponsorship of a Peruvian R.N?

### **TReeS Leaflets**

If you still have any of the new leaflets sent out with the last full newsletter in May, please pass them on to your friends and encourage them to join TReeS immediately. Despite all the recent publicity concerning environmental matters, TReeS only receives sporadic support from trusts and companies, and the base funding from our membership remains absolutely crucial to the support we can give.

### **Brief reports from the vicinity of Tambopata**

Aisling Byrne, who was a Naturalist at Tambopata for three months last summer, sends this report:

'As the plane landed and came to a standstill at Puerto Maldonado airport I could feel the heat of the forest seep through the cabin. My companions in the boat up to the Reserve were three spider scientists and an Australian women's bowling team! The main engine on the boat became flooded so we had to rely on a small peki-peki motor instead, but unfortunately the river was also very swollen after several days of heavy rains. After two hours fighting the current and hardly progressing any distance at all, the motor gave up. We sat on an island crawling with ants while Juan Carlos, the boatman, arranged to borrow another motor. Eventually, our supposed four hour trip became eight hours and we arrived at the Lodge in the dark. Flame torches lit the stairs up to the thatched buildings giving them an eerie atmosphere, as if we had mistakenly stumbled upon the film set for 'Apocalypse Now'.

Thus began my three months at the Reserve: walking along the trails through the beautiful forest; watching the incredible number and diversity of wildlife; guiding visitors; and learning about and tending the medicinal plant garden, which was my main project. When I fell ill it was Phillippe, a shaman who was visiting AMETRA, who healed me with some of his plants.

During my stay I went on a four-day trip to a region ten hours up the Rio Tambopata, passed the goldminers on the Rio Malinowski. No-one lives and hardly anyone visits the area, which consists of the untouched forest with the river winding through it. Temperatures ranged from boiling hot to freezing cold, millions of sandflies attacked any exposed skin and at night the buzz of mosquitoes was incessant.

I spent a day with Ted Parker and his group of ornithologists, calling poison dart frogs with a tape recorder until they came hopping in. Then there was three days plant-matching with Robyn Burnham, who had been working with the Smithsonian Institute in Manu National Park and helping Ken Rosenberg net birds along the main trail, for his studies into the feeding behaviour of mixed species flocks. The tourists came from all kinds of backgrounds, ranging from prison guards to lawyers and artists.

Tambopata is a very special place, a little reserve in the middle of the forest, doing its bit for conservation in the area. People like me come and go but the Reserve remains; we just take a bit of its magic back home and I hope that we will not forget it.'

While waiting, unsuccessfully, in Puerto Maldonado for three weeks this summer to see if there would be a last minute place as a naturalist, Paul McGarrick walked a new trail through primary rain forest between the rivers Pariamanu and Madre de Dios to the north of Puerto Maldonado to help assess its suitability for tour groups:

'The 30km trail through the virgin rain forest had been cut over a three month period by four gold miners. It began from the Rio Madre de Dios close to the gold-mining town of Laberinto and was not very overgrown or muddy. The forest was both awesome in its size and variety as well as incredibly beautiful. Brazil nut trees were scattered all along the trail and we spent the nights in the shelters of Brazil nut collectors. We saw wild turkeys, caimans, giant tortoises, pejerrey, groups of monkeys high in the canopy and carpets of brightly coloured butterflies drinking at the river's edge. On reaching the Rio Pariamanu we constructed a small catamaran from pona pine trees and floated back down to Puerto Maldonado. The trip gave us an amazing insight into the rain forest and the people who live and work there.'

#### **AMETRA 2001 1988/1989 update**

*Autumn 1988:* Clinical trials, to run over several months, using the resin of the 'oje' tree against intestinal parasites were started on 100 patients in Puerto Maldonado under the guidance of AMETRA.

*End of 1988:* AMETRA carried out follow-up trips to all native communities that had received a visit during the year to evaluate the effectiveness of the projects that had been started.

*March 1989:* AMETRA held its second general assembly at Tambopata. Key matters discussed were the results of the work undertaken during 1988, and the project's strategy for 1989. The Governmental Regional Health Department (UDES MDD), FENAMAD (Federation of Native Communities in Madre de Dios) and AMETRA signed an agreement to coordinate and carry out a joint educational health programme in the upper Madre de Dios region. AMETRA also signed an agreement with the Manu National Park Authority to take responsibility for the health programme for contacted communities within the Park. An immunisation programme was started immediately with Matsigenka communities at Tayakome and Yomuybato.

*May 1989:* WWF USA, through the Peruvian Foundation for the Conservation of Nature (FPCN), agreed to sponsor the work of AMETRA in the upper Madre de Dios for a six month period pending final approval of the full two year project for the area, drawn up by Dr. Neptali Cueva. A training course for primary health care and traditional medicine was also held for the Manu National Park guards and rangers. Three communities in the park buffer zone also participated.

*June 1989:* AMETRA finalised an agreement with UDES MDD, GTZ, and the University of Cuzco to coordinate all health activities in the region. AMETRA hired the anthropologist H. Helberg Chavez, formally the head of Anthropology at Manu National Park to carry out a survey and diagnosis of the overall health situation within Manu National Park and present a proposal for a health project for the indigenous population of the Park.

*August 1989:* AMETRA and the Center for Andean Medicine (CMA) in Cuzco organised a meeting with traditional birth attendants from the non-native settlements in the Manu region. Work also continued on the construction of the Ethnobiological Center at Tambopata by volunteers from native communities within the Department of Madre de Dios.

#### **Update on active TReeS members**

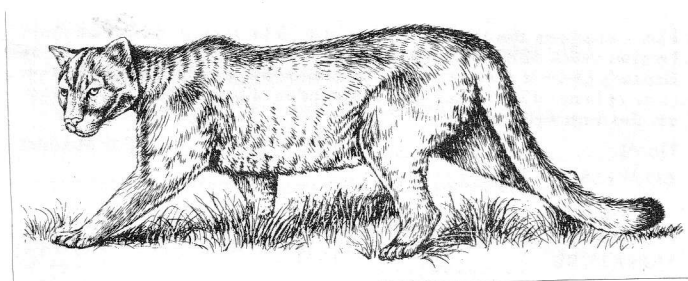
Nick Squirrel - 37 Braydon Road, Stamford Hill, London N16. Administrator of the slide library and slide show speaker for North London.

Kevin Morgan - 64 Fairford Gardens, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 7BJ. Fundraising and slide show speaker for South London.

Oliver Tickell, 379 Meadow Lane, Iffley, Oxford OX4 4BZ. Administrator of the TReeS and AMETRA document libraries.

Anna Culwick - Three Mermaids, 2 Sea View Place, St. Ives, Cornwall. Advisor to prospective resident naturalists at the Reserve and slide show speaker prepared to talk to groups almost anywhere in the U.K..

John Forrest - 64 Belsize Park, London NW3 4EH. Chairperson; membership matters and merchandise.



### **1990 Membership: A reminder to members**

TReeS annual membership runs from 1 January each year, unless you have joined the society since 1 October of the preceding year -so please pay your 1990 subscriptions.

Our administration is greatly reduced if you pay your subscription by bankers order or covenant (forms available from John Forrest).

### **Forthcoming events**

*11 February (Sunday) 7pm* - 'Halting the fires' Channel 4, by the director of 'Jungle Pharmacy'.

*February* - 'The Art of the Rainforest', and exhibition of rainforest-inspired art, which includes the work of TReeS member Sophie Allington, at the Natural History Museum with associated lectures, films and workshops, in which TReeS may participate.

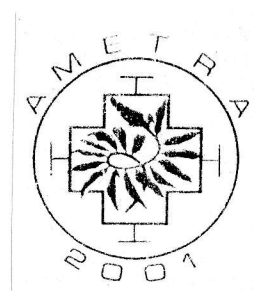
### **AMETRA T-shirts**

TReeS has now received a limited number of the new AMETRA T-shirts produced by the Rainforest Alliance in New York. In white high quality 'Fruit of the Loom' cotton, they have AMETRA designs in green, red and black printed on the front and back.

Medium - £5.50 each, or 3 for £15

Large or extra large - £6.50 each or 3 for £18

Prices include postage; available from John Forrest



### **TReeS postcards**

Two attractive colour postcards have recently been produced of animals seen on the Reserve: tree frog (photo by Paul Franklin) and tapir (photo by Anna Culwick). 10 for £2.00, 60 for £10 or 100 for £16. Prices include postage; available from John Forrest.

### **Past newsletters**

New members may be interested in copies of pre-1989 newsletters which are available at £2.00 for 5 copies, including postage from John Forrest.

### **Rainforest requiem tape**

A 60 minute cassette of genuine bird, animal and natural sounds from the Columbian rainforest has recently been released on the Mankind Music Label in conjunction with the British Library National Sound Archive. It is available in a variety of record and bookshops at £6.00. Two were kindly donated to TReeS for use at talks and slide shows.

### **Word-processing**

If anyone has the time to do some occasional word-processing for TReeS, please drop John Forrest a line.

### **Next Meeting - Saturday 20 January 1990 (2 - 5pm)**

*Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC2 (Tube - Holborn)*

1990 fundraising activities will be discussed. Speakers will probably be Isabelle Carballal, who will talk about her expedition last summer to the Pando region of northern Bolivia, just across the border from Madre de Dios, and John Forrest on his visit to the Galapagos Islands. Why not combine the meeting with a trip to the January sales?