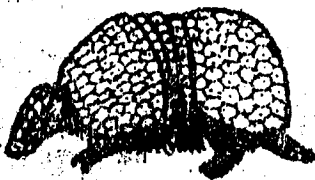


BIOLOGICAL INVENTORY NEWS

Nº: 4...



ASUNCIÓN, PARAGUAY - FEB. - 1983

The Biological Inventory News is designed to inform readers about the Biological Inventory of Paraguay. We welcome any questions, comments, or additions to our mailing list. Write to participants at Servicio Forestal Nacional, Tacuary 443, Edificio Patria, 6º Piso, Asunción, Paraguay, Sud América.

PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The National Biological Inventory is a long-term project aimed at the establishment of a National Museum of Natural History in Paraguay. The Museum, staffed and run by Paraguayans, will conduct biological investigations in Paraguay and provide information needed for environmental education, park planning, and wildlife management programs. The project is administered by Paraguay's National Forest Service and includes the participation of the Peace Corps, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Smithsonian Institution and the Missouri Botanical Garden. Funding for scholarships and supplies has been provided by the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Carnegie Museum, the World Wildlife Fund, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (US/AID). Since March 1980, scientists from USFWS have regularly visited Paraguay to conduct field studies and work with Paraguayan counterparts. A temporary museum has been established in the Forest Service Office, which serves as headquarters for the Biological Inventory.

SCIENTIST VISITS

Drs. Bill Burley and Guillermo Mann of The Nature Conservancy visited Paraguay last June to familiarize themselves with the Inventory's work and to increase collaboration between the two organizations. At the end of the same month Dr. Thomas Lovejoy, vice-president for science of the World Wildlife Fund-U.S., spent a few days visiting the museum and Paraguay's Chaco region, including the National Parks "Defensores del Chaco" and "Oriente Enciso".

From May to September primatologist Dr. Patricia Wright studied night monkeys (*Aotus trivirgatus*) in Paraguay's lower Chaco region. Her project, as well as other studies on Paraguay's fauna, was boosted by the cooperation of Mr. Antonio

Espinoza, owner of the ranch "La Golondrina".

For three weeks in August and December ornithologist Dr. Robert Ridgely and photographer John Dunning traveled in Paraguay with Lic. Nancy López and Dr. Peter Wendelken of the Inventory's ornithology group. Birds were captured and photographed hand-held and in a special enclosure. This work was in support of an expanded edition of Mr. Dunning's photographic guide, South American Land Birds (1982) and the production of a new guide to birds of South American being prepared by Dr. Ridgely and artist Guy Tudor. Both efforts are supported by the World Wildlife Fund. Mr. Dunning graciously offered to provide the Inventory with color slides of the birds photographed on this trip.

In September, Dr. Mercedes Foster of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service worked with the Inventory on the Ybycuí field guide, the plans for the new museum and organization and administrative aspects of the museum. The project's ornithologists were able to work with her in Itapúa during the latter part of her stay.

The Museum of Geneva, Switzerland, recently carried out its second zoological expedition to Paraguay during October and November. Members of the expedition were Dr. Marie-Claude Durette-Desset, Dr. Francois Baud, Dr. Volker Mahnert, Dr. Jean-Luc Perret, Dr. Claude Vaucher, Lic. Paulette Vaucher as well as Lic. Nancy López and Gilberto Bareiro of the Inventory.

In November the Inventory received visits from two prominent American herpetologists; Dr. Rodolfo Ruibal of the University of California-Riverside and Dr. Norman Scott of the USFWS. Dr. Ruibal, who has studied amphibians of the Chaco region, made several presentations of his work before members of the Inventory and university biology students. Dr. Scott, who has worked closely with the project since its initiation, spent 3 weeks working with the Inventory's herpetologists, principally in the Chaco and briefly in Alta

Paraná Department. Besides general species inventories, work was done in relation to the larval development, relative toxicity and feeding habits of the Chacoan amphibians.

MANAGEMENT PLANS COMPLETED

This past November management plans for two of Paraguay's national parks, Cerro Corá and Ybycui, were completed. The formulation of these plans was accomplished through the coordination of the Paraguayan National Forest Service, the Ministry of Defense and Peace Corps of the United States. Information on the natural and cultural resources of each park and adjoining lands was gathered and then used in formulating park objectives and management programs. Information is now being gathered for two other national parks, Defensores del Chaco and Teniente Agripino Enciso, both in the Chaco, to serve as the basis of their management plans.

PARK MANAGERS ATTEND U.S. COURSES

Two Paraguayan national park managers, Ing. Agr. Miguel Martini and Tco. Ftal. Carmelo Rodríguez, attended wildlife and park courses in the United States during last September and October. Martini, the manager of Ybycui National Park, participated in the 3rd Course on the Function and Management of Wildlife Refuges in Washington, D.C., with field trips to national wildlife refuges in California, Oregon, New Mexico and Florida. Rodríguez, the manager of Cerro Corá National Park, participated in an international workshop on environmental education and interpretation in Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. Funding for the courses was provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. National Park Service and World Wildlife Fund.

PROGRESS IN MUSEUM FACILITIES

The temporary headquarters of the National Museum of Natural History of Paraguay has recently acquired two herbarium cabinets for the rapidly growing botanical collection and 350 more glass-top jars for storage of liquid specimens. As for the future museum, a site has been selected and construction has begun. However, Paraguay's economic constraints make the completion date of the building poorly defined at present.

LAND CRUISERS ARRIVE IN PARAGUAY

The two four-wheel drive Toyota Land Cruisers donated by the World Wildlife Fund have arrived and are out of customs

and with the Inventory. These much needed vehicles will allow the Inventory to carry out field trips to those more isolated and inaccessible regions of the country which have received few visits by biologists in the past.

BOOK DONATIONS FOR INVENTORY LIBRARY

The American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) donated a complete set of back-issues of the journal Auk. Another generous donation of scientific literature was made by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which included Peters' ornithology series. The Inventory wishes to express its gratitude to these institutions.

YBYCUI FIELD GUIDE IN PRESS

The field guide booklet to some common vertebrates of Ybycui National Park, written by Paraguayan Inventory participants, is now in press and will be out within 2 months. The printing of the guide book has been made possible by a donation from the Development Program of the United Nations. The five thousand copies of the guide will be sold in parks and bookstores; the revenue from purchases will be used towards financing a second field guide on the vertebrates of another Paraguayan national park. The Ybycui booklet is the first such illustrated book on Paraguay's fauna and will be an invaluable tool in environmental education programs and important initial step towards creating a conservation ethic among the citizenry.

PCVs LEAVE INVENTORY PROJECT

PCVs Brian Abrell, Mark Ludlow and Richard White left Paraguay this past October. Brian had carried out field collections and had organized the mammal collection, Mark had done extensive work with both mammals and reptiles and Richard had been curating the bird collection. However, three PCVs have recently been incorporated into the project: Dr. Peter Wendelken in the ornithology section, Len West in the vertebrate division and Bill Hahn in the botany section.