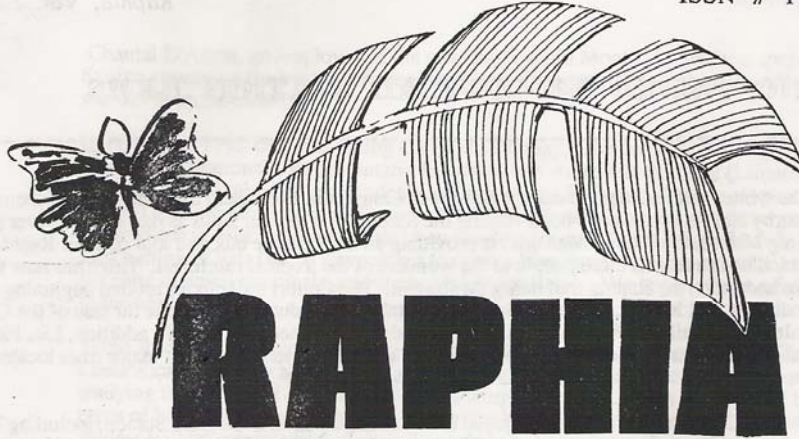


ISSN # 1188-2425



VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2, WINTER, 1991

A publication of the Canadian Organization for
Tropical
Education and Rainforest Conservation (COTERC).

OVERVIEW:

"Tropical rain forests provide the richest, most diverse habitats on earth. They harbour about 50 per cent of all living species, yet they occupy only about 4 per cent of the planet's surface. Man is destroying the rain forests at the rate of about 250,000 km² per year, but from that loss only timber, pulpwood and a very small proportion of agricultural land are gained. Virtually all other actual and potential products, together with the plant and animal species of the rain-forest, are being eliminated. There is little or no attempt to investigate rain-forest species, nor even to identify them, let alone utilize them. The greatest biological diversity is found in lowland forests, yet it is these same forest that are under the most active and imminent threat of extinction. Rain forests are nonrenewable resources: once they have been loggest or cleared over a large area, they cannot regenerate. "

by D'Esterre Charles Darby, Ph.D.

printed in Micro Views, 1990, vol.1

CANO PALMA BIOLOGICAL STATION NEWS

The winter has seen a good deal of activity at Cano Palm Biological Station. Tourists from the nearby Jungle Lodge have been visiting the Station on a regular basis as part of their river tour. Greg Mayne, the Station Manager, is providing an informative talk and tour of Trail Raphia, in which he introduces these people to the wonders of the tropical rainforest. There are now three marked trails, the Raphia trail being the longest. The Colibri trail circles around beginning and ending at trail Raphia, while the Gavilan trail takes individuals towards the far side of the Cano Palma. All trails are marked with signs carved and designed by Greg. In addition, Lic. Pablo Sanchez of Museo Nacional de Costa Rica has identified and labelled the major trees located on the property.

Several Canadian tourists have enjoyed a stay at Cano Palma Biological Station, including Bonnie Baker and Peter Cromer of Calgary, Alberta; Darcy and Rose Saunders of Ontario; Norman Lightfoot of Cambridge, Ontario; Liam Lightfoot of Victoria, B.C.; Pamela Williams of Victoria B.C.; Carla Halvorson of Canmore, Alberta; Scott & Leanne Armstrong of Ontario; we also played host to visitors from England, Germany and Austria. Greg reports that the couple from England are the authors of the Central and South American Handbook, and will be including the Station in the next edition. Some of these people booked in advance and some happened to hear by word of mouth. Regardless of how they arrived, they all had rave reviews for the hospitality shown them by Greg and Juan.

Dr. Pat Herzog, visiting professor from Lethbridge, Alberta, initiated his studies on the green macaw; unfortunately, it rained most of the time and he was unable to make any sightings, but several were seen after his departure! Pat hopes to return to continue his studies, and also hopes to conduct a class at the Station for his Lethbridge students, during this coming summer.

Marilyn Cole visited the Station in late January, 1992 and reports that there were many sightings of wildlife, and particularly reptiles and amphibians. She videotaped various lizards, snakes, monkeys, a sloth, crocodile, caiman and many birds including toucans, parrots and vultures. Accompanying Marilyn was Norman Lightfoot, a well-known Canadian photographer, who videotaped her, as well as the Station's wildlife, for an upcoming episode of the television program "Canadian Wilderness Journal", (formerly known as "Profiles of Nature"). The show is expected to be aired on the Family Channel in May or June, and then again on Global Television during the fall season. We will keep you posted when we have more information.

Lic. Daniel Hernandez, ornithologist at Museo Nacional de Costa Rica has made several trips out to the Station to continue his study of the migratory birds. He has caught many interesting species in the mist nets, including numerous hummingbirds, and is in the process of compiling the information on his computer. When he has completed this task, he will make the information available to COTERC, and we will in turn be sharing this information with Long Point Bird Observatory at Port Rowan, Ontario, as part of our collaboration with that institution. On one of his trips, Daniel brought two representatives of National Geographic magazine, who are doing a story on the migratory birds of Costa Rica. So, look for a photo or mention of Cano Palma in a forthcoming issue.

Chantal D'Aoust, an employee of the new Biodome in Montreal , Quebec, spent a month at the Station surveying the birds of the region. She will be providing a checklist of her findings once she has them tabulated.

In February, 1992 Drs. Jim Rising (Dept. of Zoology, University of Toronto), Mark Engstrom (Curator of Mammals, Royal Ontario Museum) and Anne Zimmerman, (Limnologist, University of Toronto) brought eighteen students to Cano Palma Biological Station, as part of a field course offered through University of Toronto. The students were divided into three groups and participated in mist netting of birds (they caught a juvenile broad-winged hawk, amongst others); mist netting of bats (Mark was excited to catch a Honduran white bat as well as a vampire bat); live trapping of small mammals, and study of the vegetation. We hope to have a fuller report for you in the next edition.

Three students, together with their professor Lic. Benjamin Mora of Instituto Tecnologico de Costa Rica visited the Station to begin their work in three disparate areas. One student will be studying the impact of ecotourism on the Tortuguero region, while another will be looking into the types of handicrafts that might be made by the local population for sale to tourists; the third student will be conducting a phenological study of the local plants, setting up study plots in different light intensities, to determine which may contain aromatic properties for commercial use.



To his horror, Irving suddenly realized he had failed to check his own boots before putting them on just minutes ago.



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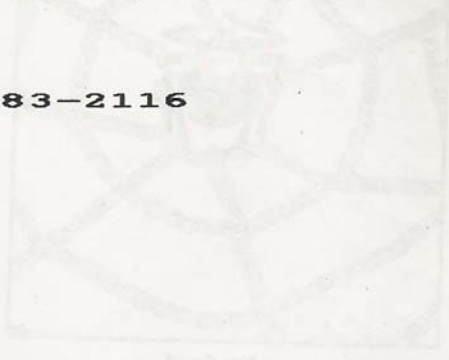
Director Manager's Office
The Director reported the following:
November. The management of the office
including the following:
managers, assistants, clerks,
messengers, etc. The following
names are listed in the
appendix.

A very serious situation
arose on 11/11. What a day!
The night shift was very busy
and was almost before the
management had been
late in the month I found
out the situation. It was
very serious and I was
very busy for a long time
in the office.

WANTED

**CANADIAN ORGANIZATION FOR
TROPICAL EDUCATION AND
RAINFOREST CONSERVATION (COTERC)
IS GROWING AND NEEDS VOLUNTEERS
TO ASSIST -- EVERYTHING FROM
STUFFING ENVELOPES TO GIVING
PRESENTATIONS IN SCHOOLS. IF
YOU HAVE AN EXTRA HOUR OR TWO A
WEEK AND WANT TO ASSIST IN OUR
CONSERVATION EFFORTS, PLEASE
CALL ME.**

MARILYN COLE 683-2116



Station Manager's News...

Greg Mayne has reported the following :

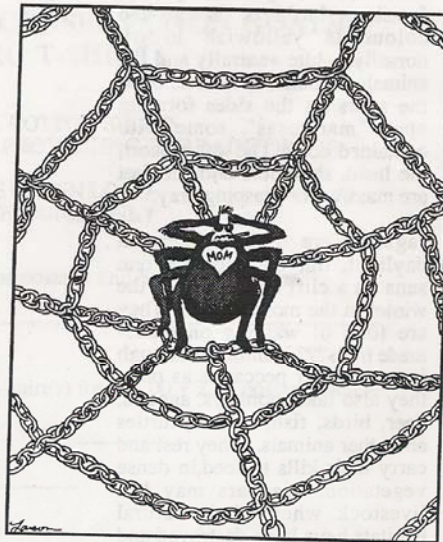
November: We mist-netted 43 birds, including the following : manikins, hummingbirds, tanagers, warblers, catbirds, seedfinches. One chestnut-sided warbler was retrapped from the previous month.

The following sightings were made: numerous Montezuma oropendolas eating our pejalvalles (a delicious small fruit of a very prickly tree) and making a mess! It was worth having these trees, though, as they attract many songbirds; gray catbirds have shown up after their migrations; a pair of tolomucas (taira -- a small mammal) behind the kitchen; white-crowned parrot; keel-billed toucans; magnolia warbler; six great green macaws flying overhead and later we found them at the cerro (a nearby mountain). I watched them for ten minutes from about 20 feet away -- beautiful birds! White-faced capuchins on the canal between camp and the mouth; frigate birds flying high over the beach area; brown pelicans over the beach; oropel, or eyelash viper; baby black river turtle by the dock area; baby caiman around the dock area; southern river otter sunning himself on a fallen tree in front of the Station.

December: The following sightings were made: osprey, manikins, woodpeckers, warblers. On the travel back to Cano Palma on the local lodge's tour boat, I saw three sloths, two in the same tree curled up and sleeping; the other moving from one tree to the other.

It was an overcast afternoon around 2:00 p.m. What a treat to see so many in one day! The tourists didn't realize how lucky they were. I couldn't believe how uninterested they had been!

Later on that month I found another three-toed sloth. It was quite small with clean brown fur. The adults have a tinge of grey, green dirty colour from algae or diet. It was curled up and sleeping contentedly. We also had the luck to spot a group of 6-8 capuchins in Theresa's (the cook) lagoon. On Dec. 15 we spotted a group of 4-6 spider monkeys moving through the property behind the dormitory in the gavilan trees.



Tough spiders

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

JAGUAR (Felis onca; Panthera onca) Spanish name: Tigre

As reported by Greg Mayne, Station manager:

As you are aware, after having cleared some trails on our property we have had numerous white-lipped peccary using our trail system. It appears that the jaguar is using the same trails to hunt its preferred food source. I have the opportunity to see the tracks (which are larger than my fist) on occasions. More impressive is to hear its call on a starlit, tranquil evening, or to be awakened by its pulsed series of single, deep, hoarse grunts.

This largest of Central American carnivores weighs 50-100 kg, females a third less. The ground colour is yellowish brown dorsally, white ventrally and the animals are black-spotted all over, the spots on the sides forming open "mariposas", some with contained dots. The tail is short, the head, shoulders and forefeet are massive for grasping prey.

Jaguars are rarely seen in daylight, but occasionally one suns on a cliff or a log over the winter in the morning sun. They are fond of walking on made-made trails??? Hmm! Although jaguars prefer peccaries as prey, they also take monkeys, agoutis, deer, birds, fish, lizards, turtles and other animals. They rest and carry their kills to feed, in dense vegetation. Jaguars may kill livestock where their natural habitats have been destroyed and their prey replaced by cattle. The kill is usually made with a bite to the nape, the canines breaking the

prey's neck or penetrating its skull. The ribs are eaten, not just stripped of flesh.

A jaguar seems not to avoid the scent of humans, and one may follow a person walking a trail??? Hmm!!!

Jaguars are extinct in many parts of its former range from overhunting for the furtrade, loss of habitat by deforestation, persecution by ranchers and probably loss of prey. Annual home ranges are probably several hundred square kilometers for males, less for females. Hence, this is why I hear the jaguar's call only on occasion. It's always a special treat when I do have the opportunity to sit and listen to the roar of the jaguar. I look forward to the first time I can actually spot this impressive creature at Cano Palma.

Information taken from Neotropical Rainforest Mammals, Costa Rican Natural History by Daniel H. Janzen.

COTERC NEWS

Early in the New Year, COTERC received its official registered status as a charitable organization under the Income Tax Act of Revenue Canada. This is very important because it means that we can now issue official receipts for any donations made to COTERC. Barbara Lam, our fundraising chair, will now be actively pursuing corporate sponsorship for our ongoing conservation work.

We have now received 2,000,000 colones from the Canadian Embassy in San Jose, Costa Rica to be used to purchase equipment for the butterfly farming project. This is good news; however, we still need to find \$23,200 for salaries before we can launch this project. We have approached a Costa Rican agency and will be told in March whether or not there is money available.

In February, 1992 we learned that the Zoological Society of Metro Toronto has approved funding in the amount of \$16,150 to instal electricity at Cano Palma Biological Station, as well as purchase a generator, boat and motor. Our deepest appreciation is extended to the Society for their support.

HELP SUPPORT OUR CONSERVATION GOALS- BUY A COTERC T-SHIRT!

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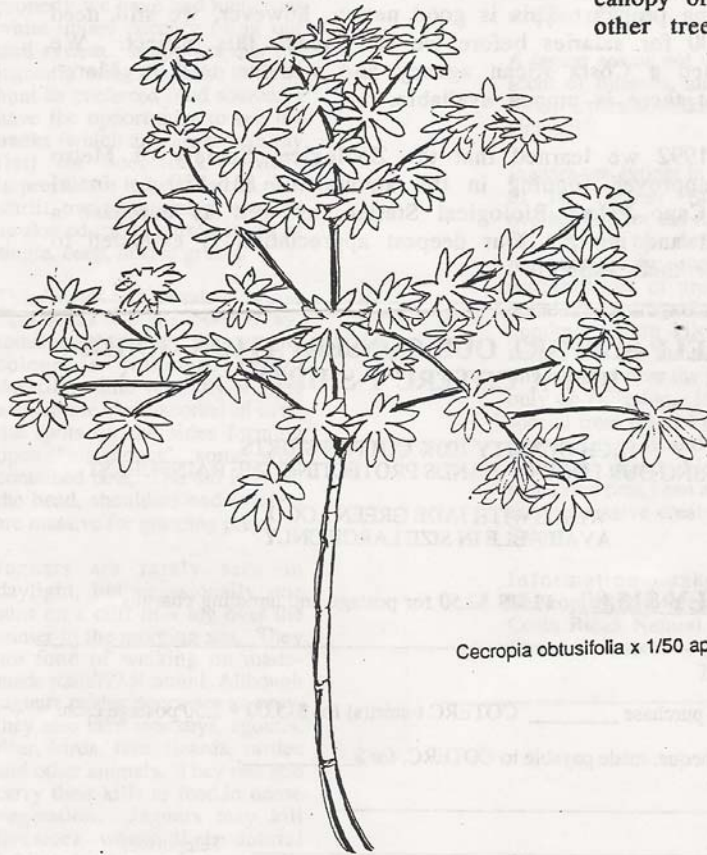
Cecropiaceae- The Cecropia Family

Cecropia species. A small family of 6 genera and 300 species, all of them tropical.

The tree is a fast growing, secondary successional, or disturbed habitat tree. It is also the home of mutualistic colonies of *Azteca* ants, and a favored food of tree sloths (though not the only food).

The tree has a straight trunk partly supported by stilt roots, and large palmately lobed leaves.

Many people think that sloths are found only in *Cecropia* trees, but the truth is that they visit many plant species. Sloths are simply more visible in the open canopy of *Cecropia* than in other trees.



Cecropia obtusifolia x 1/50 approx