



Winter/Spring 1999

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The newsletter of Canadian Organization for Tropical Education
and Rainforest Conservation

CHANGES IN COTERC

by Marilyn Cole

COTERC'S NEW PHONE & FAX

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831-4203

e-mail is still
coterc@
interhop.net

Some of you may have had the experience of phoning the old COTERC office number, only to get a recorded announcement telling you that the phone and fax numbers have changed. I want to bring you up to date on some recent events.

In addition to holding the title of Executive Director of COTERC, I have been responsible for doing all the day-to-day administrative duties that are involved. That includes answering correspondence that arrives by regular mail or e-mail, contacting various organizations, making arrangements and carrying through with any details involved in fund-raising activities, organizing and operating a weekly bingo to raise funds for COTERC, overseeing the production of Raphia newsletter, keeping in touch with our Costa Rican staff and others in that country, organizing the school education program, plus a dozen other duties. What grew from a part-time position has expanded into a job for more than one person!!

As a result, we have hired a full-time Administrative Assistant to take over the day-to-day work of the organization.

Fran Mason has long been involved as a COTERC volunteer, along with her two children Debbie and Daniel and her husband Tom (who has served as Vice President for the past few years). Fran brings to the job a wealth of knowledge as a former zoo keeper at the Toronto zoo, as well as her previous job as a travel consultant.

The entire Mason clan visited Caño Palma Biological Station in March, 1999, so Fran has first-hand knowledge of that end of the operation too, so feel free to contact her if you have a query about either the organization or the field station.

I will remain as Executive Director, and can still be contacted at (905) 683-2116, fax (905) 683-5897, but my e-mail address is now monos@osh.auracom.com.

FAREWELL TO NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Because of the above-mentioned changes, it was necessary also to change the role of the newsletter editor, to become more all-encompassing in nature. Consequently, John Parry felt that he would not be able to devote the time required to complete the job. We want to thank John very much for his considerable efforts over the past few years. It really is quite a task to put out the newsletter. Is there a member who would be interested in taking on the challenge?

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NOTES FROM THE FIELD

by Ross Ballard, Station Manager, Caño Palma Biological Station

Caño Palma Biological Station has played host to many people over the last year (the span of my time here). They have come to Tortuguero in pursuit of the remarkably rich biodiversity of this area, whether it be the tens of thousands of green turtles which nest on her warm beaches or the wide range of often endangered forest animals which are still found in abundance here.

Visitors from northern climes often reflect that while the neotropics must be a fascinating place to live, they feel that they would miss the change of seasons which punctuate the year back home.

But this is not a place without seasons. It is true that seasonal variation of climate is mild here, with two annual dry periods lasting only six or seven weeks and characterized by noticeably cooler temperatures only around the beginning of the wet seasons. But this same evenness of climate has also created an environment as rich in life as almost any on the planet! And here, the real drama of seasonal change is clearly reflected by animal movements, abundance and behavioural changes, as well as the flowering and fruiting cycles of plants. We are talking about changes that go well beyond obvious patterns like the movement of migratory North American birds through the Neotropics. This is certainly a place with distinct seasons. You just need to shift your focus in order to see them! "Notes From the Field" is intended to document a few of the more interesting changes. (I will explain before beginning this account that I have written another short essay elsewhere in this publication describing my bewilderment over those naturalists who are much addicted to the peculiarities of birds. In support of my contention of their oddness, I will include in this article brief excerpts from the exhaustive and well-known "A Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica" by Garry Stiles and Alexander Skutch, copyright 1989, Cornell University. Such quotations as have come from Stiles and Skutch will hereafter be designated by the abbreviation "S&S").

Perhaps the highlight for August, 1998 came as a volunteer witnessed the aftermath of an attack on a Collared Aracari by a Semi-

Plumbeous hawk. The Aracari was left alive but mortally wounded by the hawk, its throat ripped, on the edge forest of the station compound. S&S describe the hawk as "haunting the understorey" where it drops on its prey, which includes other birds. (For those of you beguiled by detail, the cry in breeding season is said to be "Kooyalee" (S&S).

The Aracari, said by S&S to "straggle through middle and upper forest levels" was photographed by Maggie Smith, alert volunteer, as it lay dying. The call (bird's not Maggie's) is

"a volunteer witnessed the aftermath of an attack on a Collared Aracari by a Semi-Plumbeous hawk."

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<i>Contributors</i>	Fran Mason Tom Mason Ross Ballard Bev McMullen Guillermo Escofet

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said to be a loud "Piseek" or "Pink" when enjoying good health (S&S). In alarm the Aracari makes a high squealing "Eeeyeek" (S&S). One can only imagine that among the bird's last words, it said "Eeeyeek, Eeeyeek", although this is not reported.

Two rare hummingbirds were also seen this August. The Long Billed Starthroat, rare in the Caribbean lowlands and the Green Breasted Mango hummer (call: "A buzzy, zingy "Kazirk, Kazee" (S&S).

A long Spider monkey was observed as it tried to fend off harassment by a group of nine White-faced Capuchin monkeys. After perhaps twenty minutes the Spider monkey found an opening and bolted away into the surrounding forest.

Crested Guans were seen in pairs many times this past August. Not commonly seen, this thirty-four inch bird has the misfortune of being excellent eating, and is becoming rare in most of Costa Rica as a result.

Lastly for August, very large crocodiles made an appearance several times along the Rios Penitencia and Tortuguero. Presumably, they are always in these areas, but their secretive nature causes them to hide most of the year.

September was noteworthy because of the Great Potoos around the station at night. They were rarely seen but their voices are very strange and unlike anything I have ever heard. S&S describes their call thus "Bwow!" or "Gwok!", or a loud guttural, snoring "Gwawwwrrr!" or "Wowwwrrr!" Really!! I should add that Potoos are large owl-like birds.

Also great in September were Great Currawongs, which were seen in pairs and even small groups around the station. This bird is somewhat taller than the Crested Guan, but much more robustly built. Like the Guan, it is delicious and rare away from protected areas.

The region of Tortuguero has four of the six varieties of Toucans in Costa Rica; the smallest (and rarest) found here is the Eared Toucanet. Several were discovered in the compound in September, mingled with flocks of Collared Aracaris.

A very large spider, identified by its common name, Costa Rican Zebra-leg Tarantula, was found in the office this September. It brushed against the ankle of Daniel Cogliano, Assistant

Station Manager, late one night while he was on the telephone (for those reading this who have just re-thought your travel plans to Caño Palma Biological Station, you have my sympathies). I really don't like spiders myself but it should be pointed out that Tarantulas of any sort are rare here. I have seen only four in the last year.

In October small flocks of Green Macaws were in the vicinity, as they are from time to time. But the really exciting news is that a pair of Scarlet Macaws were reliably sighted several times. According to S&S, Scarlets were abundant in both the Atlantic and Pacific lowlands of Costa Rica at the turn of this century. By 1950, they were reduced to just a few pairs on the Caribbean side, in the extreme northwest. Not very hopeful.

A pair of Jaguarundis, a small slender wild cat, was seen many times on a particular tree stump on the canal. They apparently used the stump as a lookout post, and frequently investigated passing boats from this vantage.

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"A pair of Scarlet Macaws were reliably sighted several times".

NEW MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

After serving as Membership Secretary for several years, Ian Morrison has resigned to concentrate more on his family and his hobby of short-wave radio. **Thank you very much**, Ian, for your dedication and for all the time that you have put in to handle this all-important task!! We wish you all the best.

And we want to extend a warm welcome to **Amanda Stone**, who is taking on this task for the future. Amanda and her husband Mark, have become members during this past year and have quickly demonstrated a keen interest in the organization, attending Tropical Treat and providing donations for the auction. Both of them visited Caño Palma Biological Station this past March, as part of a group of 16 Canadians, and enjoyed themselves tremendously. They hope to make a second visit during the year 2000. Amanda's goal is to increase our membership significantly during the next year. Thanks, and welcome aboard, Amanda!!

Road Through Park Sparks New Clashes

by Guillermo Escofet (excerpted by permission from Tico Times)

A recent government bid to crack down on vehicles driving on an illegal road cut three years ago through Tortuguero National Park was sabotaged by angry locals, who last weekend decided to take the law into their own hands.

Shovels in hand, around 100 protestors began to fill in a big ditch that had been dug across the unpaved road last week on orders of Environment Minister Elizabeth Odio, to stop vehicles from entering the Park.

Local Mayor Manuel Hernandez was there to lend his moral support — some say he incited the action — and park rangers and police stood by without doing anything to stop protestors.

"Temperatures are running high among locals. Someone could get hurt or killed soon if nothing is done to appease the situation", said the Mayor, denying that he encouraged the ditch filling.

Tortuguero Conservation Area Director Maria Elena Herrera told The Tico Times she wants to avoid an all-out confrontation with the community, and is looking to arrive at a compromise. However, local ecotourism-business owners, conservationists and some community leaders want authorities to take a tough stand against Park violators.

"What's at stake here is the integrity of the national parks system", said Michael Kaye, founder of Tortuguero's oldest eco-lodge. "If we allow people to get away with this, we should ask ourselves: Are the parks for real, or are they a joke?"

Opinions have been divided in the area ever since the local municipality bulldozed a one-and-a-half kilometer long and 40-meter wide swath across National Park forest in December, 1995 to extend a road to the waterlocked town of Tortuguero. Park authorities took three weeks to react, stopping the illegal destruction only after the bulldozers had nearly reached the shore of the canal leading to Tortuguero, just a short boat ride away. A suit filed against the Municipality of Guapiles is still being fought in the courts.

Many in Tortuguero, including the numerous lodges around it that make a living from the tourists who flock there to watch nesting sea turtles, see the road as a threat to the local economy's mainstay — ecotourism. Others see it as a vital lifeline to the outside world.

The ditch was dug, according to Herrera, "as a protective measure, to avoid damage to forest regrowth in the clearing." Park authorities hope that, if left alone, the road will be recolonized by the surrounding jungle.

According to Mayor Hernandez, protestors had already filled half of the ditch by the time he left the protest on Saturday. He claimed protestors acted spontaneously, and that two-thirds of the protestors were from Tortuguero town, where he claims most "humble people want the road kept open as a faster and cheaper means of bringing in supplies and reaching outside services, as well as attracting cash-spending visitors. The president of Tortuguero's Development Association, Enrique Obando — one of the road's staunchest opponents — denied this, saying that the lion's share of the town's 600-strong population is not interested in the road. Its advocates, he said, are the town's shop, bar and restaurant owners, who want a cheaper supply route, plus a few low-lives who will join any cause if plied with drinks.

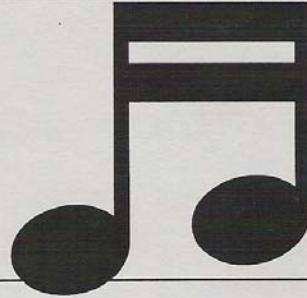
For Kaye, the point is whether the laws protecting National Parks are to be respected. In a retort to Hernandez's comment, he said: "If the Mayor is really worried about people getting killed, he should use his influence to get people to obey the law". Kaye said this latest incident in Tortuguero will test authorities' real commitment to protecting the integrity of National Parks. He said "I have every confidence that the current government has every intention of having the laws upheld".

We in COTERC sincerely hope so.

"Many...see the road as a threat to the local economy's mainstay — ecotourism. Others see it as a vital lifeline to the outside world"

COTERC BENEFIT CONCERT A HIT!

by Fran Mason



On Sunday, February 21st a benefit concert was held at Pickering United Church, just outside Toronto.

The concert was organized by Stephanie Piercey, an internationally known soprano who along with Sylvain Landry, a renowned tenor, provided a program which included music from Verdi and Puccini, to name but two. Stephanie's rendering of Madame Butterfly brought tears to the eyes of many.

The Young Singers of Ajax, led by director Anna Lynn Murphy, added to the afternoon with several songs, including an old Canadian folk song "The Blooming Bright Star of Belle Isle", which they had sung at the Canterbury International Music Festival in England last summer.

Janina Krauss and Lois Craig provided the piano accompaniment and John Krauss (conductor of the Pickering Community Orchestra) was our emcee.

Thank you to everybody who volunteered their time to assist in preparations and to those who came to spend the afternoon enjoying the concert and supporting COTERC.

(continued from Page 3)

Gaudy Leaf frogs came out of hiding in the heavy rains of mid-October. The males make a loud, almost clucking call to attract mates and by this sound. We found several of these very colourful tree frogs in the station compound.

And last but not least (from my point of view), I was working at the edge of the compound last October when I heard a rustling in the bushes several feet in front of me. Expecting Chico, the station dog, to emerge, I stopped raking and watched a Collared Peccary rush at me from the forest edge. It stopped a few feet short of me and soft of waved its face at me

short of me and sort of waved its face at me and made woofing sounds, showing its teeth. This is the first time I've ever seen a Peccary, and I decided to celebrate the occasion by running away.

I am indebted to Fiona Reid's excellent book "A Field Guide to the Mammals of Central America and Southeast Mexico", in helping me to pin down the sound made by this ferocious creature. Fiona also describes the Collared Peccary as reaching a weight of only about 44 pounds. I am sure that this is a misprint. The creature which menaced your humble author was at least the size of a Jersey cow!

Until next time, that's it for "Notes From the Field".

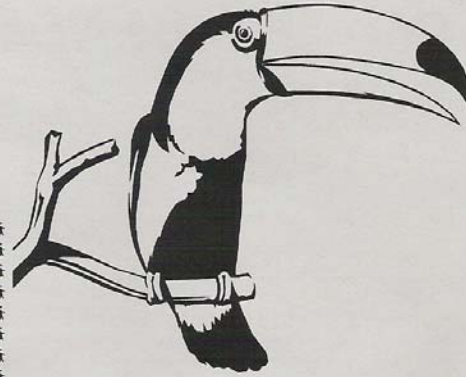
Caño Palma Notes

While at Caño Palma, Paul Prior (Toronto) and Jim McIntosh (Arcata, California) set up some mist nets during their work on a long-term migration monitoring project for Redwood Sciences in Arcata. During the day on March 12th the following birds were caught, weighed, sexed, banded (or had a feather trimmed in the case of the hummingbirds) and assessed on overall condition before being released:

- Rufous-tailed Hummingbird
- Long Tailed Hermit
- White Collared Manakin
- Olive Backed Euphonia
- Bicoloured Antbird

The only migrant bird caught was a Wood Thrush

Get Ready for Tropical Treat Three!



THANK YOU!!

ITEMS WANTED FOR LIVE AND SILENT AUCTIONS AT TROPICAL TREAT

OCTOBER 2

RESERVE THIS DATE!!

Tropical Treat 3 is in the final planning stages. The event will be held again at the Toronto Zoo Atrium on

October 2nd, 1999 and the ticket price will be \$90.00 per couple (\$45.00 per person). I am sure this event will be a lot of fun and a great way to support COTERC.

The live and silent auctions are the main focus of the evening and we would like to start to ask for auction items. If anyone has a talent, a business that could provide a service, or could donate a hand-crafted item, we would love to hear from you. It is not too soon to get started on collecting auction items.

Please contact the COTERC office at (905) 831-8809, fax (905) 831-4203, e-mail cotercc@interhop.net, if you would like to donate an item for the auctions, or to reserve some Tropical Treat tickets.

Fran Mason

We would like to thank the following for their generous donations:

Steven Poole, Black's Camera donated processing of slides to prints, to enable us to make up a reptile and amphibian "guide book" containing species found at Caño Palma.

Home Hardware, Pickering donated a Black & Decker staple gun and staples.

Cashway Lumber, Ajax donated a roll of fiberglass screen to replace the existing screen on all buildings at Caño Palma Biological Station.

JAKE'S CHEESECAKE

This recipe for cheesecake (which was prepared for us while at Caño Palma) comes from Jake Wickham, a research student from SUNY College at Fredonia, New York. Jake is at Caño Palma studying species diversity of moths in Tortuguero. He claims the recipe is an old family secret. It was taste tested by 20 people and received rave reviews.

Graham crackers (amount will vary)
3/4 to 1 whole stick of butter
1 tsp sugar
1/2 tsp salt
Mix together and pack into the bottom of a baking pan — square 9x9

1 lb. cream cheese - softened
2 eggs (mix in one at a time)
1/2 cup sugar (add slowly)
1 tsp vanilla
Combine and add to crust and bake for 20 minutes at 350 degrees F. Cool for 30 minutes.

8 oz Sour cream
1/2 cup sugar
1 tsp vanilla. Add to cooled base and cook for a further 10 minutes at 350 degrees F. Cool for 30 minutes. Then chill for several hours.

Photography Tips for the Rain forest

by Bev McMullen

As a Board member for COTERC, I had the very rewarding experience of photographing the rain forest of Tortuguero at Caño Palma Biological Station. We left Canada with a group of seventeen passionate rain forest aficionados in mid-March for one week of exploring.

Having been to Caño Palma before (although it was during a hurricane), I had some idea what to expect as far as photographic subjects were concerned. I armed myself with two camera bodies — Nikon F50 and Nikon F70 and three lenses (300mm, 60 macro and wide-angle). Make sure you pack a 2x extender or extension tubes as well. If you are shooting slides, I strongly suggest a 200 or 400 asa, as the light in the rain forest varies. Bring a back up camera — expect the unexpected. Make the effort and bring your equipment. You will be glad you did.

For me a photographic opportunity in a rain forest is a catharsis and borders on a spiritual experience being so close to nature. The Neotropical rain forest may represent the most glorious manifestation of life to a biologist, but to a photographer it's a challenge of greens and light.

A walk in the rain forest shows trunks of twisted vines and great expanses of tangled trees and branches. Stop for a moment and look up. Nearly 200' above the ground soars the magnificent forest into the canopy.

Plan to visit the rain forest first thing in the morning (5:30 a.m.) to watch the forest come alive with activity. The Keel-billed and Chestnut-mandible Toucans roosted in a tree outside my cabin and were gone by 6:00 a.m. Evening is another time for a great jungle walk. The expert herpers were able to collect an amazing array of specimens that you would not believe exist on this planet.

Photographing reptiles, amphibians and mammals is always a challenge, yet so rewarding if you rise early. I strongly recommend a dugout canoe adventure into the Tortuguero National Park in search for Eyelash Vipers and Pygmy

Kingfishers and the exotic Basilisk lizards. Although you never have to leave the station in search of images to shoot, we had the rare opportunity to photograph up close and personal a magnificent frog called the Barred Frog, a Red-eyed Tree frog and *Dendrobates pumilio* (Strawberry Poison Dart frog) and numerous *Bufo marinus* toads. Right at the dock is a resident Caiman about 4' long, of which you will get great portrait shots.

If you are into insects and butterflies, the station is a haven, but patience is recommended. For the scenic shooter, the rainforest is a myriad of colour, with the constantly changing light. Cross the river by canoe and visit the wild Caribbean Sea for some dramatic sunrises and sunsets. A healthy hike up the Tortuguero cerro is well worth the scenic overview of the area. Caño Palma is a dream come true. Being surrounded by the sights and sounds of nature and the rustic setting surrounded by giant palms only adds to the atmosphere. Being on the canal affords opportunities to spot River Otters, birds and much more. Just to get your trigger ringer itching, the following is what we saw and photographed: Red & Blue Poison Dart frogs; Parrot snake; Emerald Basilisk lizard; Fer-de-Lance snake; Eyelash Viper (golden form); Caiman; Long-nosed bats; Northern Jacana; Giant Red-winged Grasshopper; Giant toad; Gaudy Leaf Frog/Red-eyed Tree frog; Smoky Jungle frog; Brown Pelican; Toucans; Heliconia butterflies; Blue Morpho butterflies (*Morpho peleides*); Two-toed sloth; Howler monkeys; Giant swallowtail butterfly; Beautiful shorebirds.

Hey shutterbugs! Caño Palma is F8 and be there!

"Plan to visit the rain forest first thing in the morning (5:30 a.m.) to watch the forest come alive with activity."



Is It Just Me?

by Ross Ballard, Station Manager, Caño Palma Biological Station

When I first arrived in Costa Rica, I had only a very superficial interest in birds (mainly, were they low in cholesterol, or were they amicable with a nice Chablis?). But my last year here has changed that. You would really need a heart of stone not to be stirred by the beautiful and interesting avifauna which surrounds you in a place like this.

That said, however, I still find birders, true birders, a strange bunch. A distinction must be made between naturalists who are "dyed in the wool" birders and others who are mere converts, like myself. I fear that we latecomers will always be outsiders to the pros who dominate this strange pursuit.

From time to time I visit Dr. Aaron Sekerak, a professional birder and friend who wrote "A Travel and Site Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica", Lone Pine Press, 1996. A devoted birder, he will sometimes invite me along on an excursion in the area of La Fortuna, where he lives.

"Ross, what are you doing tomorrow morning?" "Going birding with you, Aaron!" is of course the correct answer.

One such morning began at five. A cold rainy and dark morning it was as well. Two grown men, great big adults, you understand, were venturing into the rain forest on the slopes of Arenal Volcano to find a bird seldom seen even by the pros in this game.

We walked some distance into the forest until we were in a rain-soaked gully surrounded by underbrush. This was the place! Both of us sat on plastic bags in the cold drizzle, armed only with field glasses. We helped pass the next hour or so by shivering in silence.

For myself, I didn't even know exactly what it was that we were looking for, except that it must be awfully gawd-almighty important.

Suddenly, "There it is!" hissed Aaron, and indeed there it was. Twenty feet away, a scrappy little brown and grey morsel, pushing maybe five inches, even with its long legs. Why, it didn't even seem to have a tail! It was not

stately. It was not gorgeous. What it lacked in bright plumage, it did not compensate for with a live demeanor. It may have been a bird, but it was not much of a bird.

In short, it was much like getting socks for Christmas. In no sense was it impressive.

I suppressed the embarrassment I felt for my friend.

"Excellent, Aaron!" I said. "C'mon, I'll buy you a coffee!"

"No, no! Let's watch!" Obviously, I had failed to apprehend the significance of the moment.]

Those of you who are born birders will not recognize perversity in the preceding account, but as an outsider to your clan, I for one now know that there are at least two types of people in this world. I will not elaborate further for fear of alienating several good friends.

Later that morning over coffee, I was brought up to speed on this matter. The bird we had seen was the seldom spotted Fulvous-bellied Antpitta. -A Fulvous-bellied Antpitta, no less! I had paid my dues, joined a quest and in so doing had become something of a rarity in my personhood!

Still, I think I prefer to be a rarity among people than an oddity. Such pursuits are better left to the pros. But you cannot deny the potency of these pivotal moments in life. And that is the crux: I have seen the Fulvous-bellied Antpitta! I need doff my hat to no man!

"I had only a very superficial interest in birds (mainly were they low in cholesterol or were they amicable with a nice Chablis?)"

Welcome to
PIONEER PETROLEUMS,
who have recently joined COTERC as a
Corporate Member!

A Pictorial Guide to the Reptiles and Amphibians of Caño Palma

by Tom Mason, Vice President, COTERC

Over the past several years I have been compiling a list of the reptiles and amphibians in the area of Tortuguero and Caño Palma Biological Station. Several individuals have been involved with the gathering of this information. The first reports that I have go back to the first days of the station, when the entire station consisted of a small homesteader's shack. Initially a list was developed using information obtained from Dr. Jay Savage, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida. More information came through Dr. Bill Lamar, Greentracks, Durango, Colorado. The main contributors to the list include (those people who actually caught and/or identified species) Marilyn Cole, Daryl Loth, Michael Blandford, Beth Burke, Marc Lachaine, Michael Burger, Malcolm Enright and myself. The list is not yet complete. However, it should cover most of the common species and many of the uncommon species that people may come across in the Tortuguero region.

Although lists and a copy of the "Herpetofauna of Costa Rica" are available at the station, it is difficult for most people to identify a snake or a frog on the path in the forest. Most students and other visitors at the station did not wish to capture an unknown species. Therefore, keys were extremely difficult to use. Over several years the request for an easy-to-use guide was made many times.

I therefore decided to see if one could be made for the station. The guide would have to be simple, easy to use and as far as I was concerned, not too expensive. It would also be a good idea to make the guide in such a manner that additions could be made as photos of species became available. Finally, because of the conditions this guide would be placed under, the information would have to be waterproof.

I decided to put together a photograph album of all the reptiles and amphibians that I could find. Attached to this would be a small amount of information on the species. Photographs would be used to simplify the identification and I

thought that if possible, I would have the information laminated to reduce damage done by humidity.

I had photographs of a few species, but most were in the form of slides. In addition, Marilyn Cole had photographs of a few species. Most of the information would have to come from seeing and capturing the animals. On looking through my slides and borrowing some from Marc Lachaine, I came up with approximately 70. On my budget, that was a lot of slides to be converted into prints. Luckily, one of our members, John Mitchell came to my rescue. John contacted Mr. Steven Poole of Black's Camera and he kindly donated the cost of the processing to COTERC. In addition, the Toronto Zoo's Graphics Department volunteered to laminate the photos to waterproof the final work.

In all, forty-eight of the known 71 species in the region are represented in the photo album. Hopefully missing photos of the known and new specimens will be added over the coming years. People visiting the station will be able to use it for identification purposes, and to add their own photos as they become available. A total list of the species known as of 1997 (the last update) will be included in the pictorial key to show people what animals are known so far.

This is just one thing that can be done to help our station. The station needs help from all the members of COTERC to be successful in its mission. Please contact the office (905) 831-8809) to see where YOU can help.

I would like to thank all the people who helped put the photo album together.

"People visiting the station will be able to use the photo album for identification purposes, and to add their own photos"

Volunteers Needed

COTERC is holding two fundraising barbecues and needs volunteers. The dates are:

JUNE 5 - AJAX, ONTARIO

JULY 3- PICKERING ONTARIO

Please contact the office if you can help.

Raffle for Bateman Print

**RAFFLE
TICKETS
NOW
AVAILABLE!**

Once again we are fortunate to have been donated a framed signed, limited edition Robert Bateman print to offer as first prize in our fundraising raffle. Second and third prizes will be wildlife prints by other Canadian artists.

Tickets are now available:

\$2.00 each or
\$5.00 for three tickets

The draw will be held at the Tropical Treat on October 2nd, 1999 and winners will be notified by telephone after the draw.

To buy your tickets, or if you would like to help by selling some in your neighbourhood, please contact Fran Mason (905) 831-8809, fax (905) 831-4203
e-mail coterc@interhop.net

SPRING FAIR RIVERDALE PARK TORONTO

**SUNDAY, MAY 2, 1999
11:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.**

**Free Admission! Rain or Shine!
Entertaining - Interactive -
Environmental**

**COTERC will have a table at this event.
If you can spare a few hours to help man
the table, please call the COTERC office.
(905) 831-8809**

Frogwatch Ontario Programme

Starting in late March, participants in the Frogwatch-Ontario Programme will be out in full force, listening for frog and toad calls in their local wetlands. Frogwatch-Ontario is an amphibian monitoring programme for people of all ages, all across Ontario. Frogwatch observers will monitor their local wetlands (in backyards, at the cottage, or in rural areas) and listen for the amorous calls of frogs and toads. Male frogs and toads will typically start to call in March in southern Ontario and into April/May in Northern Ontario. Spring peepers, wood frogs and chorus frogs are usually the first species to make their presence known in the spring, but larger frogs like the bullfrog may call as late as June/July. Each frog and toad species has its own distinct call, making it easy to recognize each of Ontario's 13 species.

You can help. It's easy and it's fun!

For those of you who are still a little "wet" behind the ears when it comes to identifying frog calls, have no fear. You will learn to identify them by listening to audio-clips on the Frogwatch-Ontario webpage, calling the Frogwatch Hotline, or by ordering a tape of Ontario frog calls. For more information, visit our website at www.cciw.ca/frogwatching/

or call the Hotline at 1-888-31FROGS - press 333,333 as the station number to hear the calls.

To register, you will need your *name, address, phone number, plus latitude & longitude of where you will be frogwatching.* Contact:
Frogwatch Ontario
c/o Adopt-A-Pond Programme
Toronto Zoo
361A Old Finch Ave.
Scarborough, ON M1B 5K7
phone (905) 336-4418
fax (416) 392-4979
email hpassmor@zoo.metrotor.on.ca

DON'T FORGET TO C.R.O.A.C.

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The original shirt features the COTERC logo in 100% cotton - Size Large only - Ash grey colour with green logo - \$ 15.00 each



Our Caño Palma shirt features an original design by Joan Watson printed in six colours on a white shirt. Size Large only - \$ 18.00 each



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FOR TROPICAL EDUCATION &
RAINFOREST CONSERVATION**

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Canada

e-mail coterc@interhop.net

Visit our website
<http://home.interhop.net/~coterc>

More Poetry from Children

In previous issues we have published poetry created by schoolchildren. We are pleased to present some more of their works here.

HUMMINGBIRD by Lestre

I am as colourful as a rainbow, and delicate as a flower.
My wings move fast in the air like an eagle in flight.
I dive down to flowers like a swimmer diving into the clear blue water.
When I complete my mission I will be like an angel getting its clear blue wings in the morning light.

TREES
The trees are apartments with many floors;
The animals are the people depending on each other;
The rain forest is a community with many apartments;
The loggers are the demolition workers blowing up the trees.

by Jason Ng

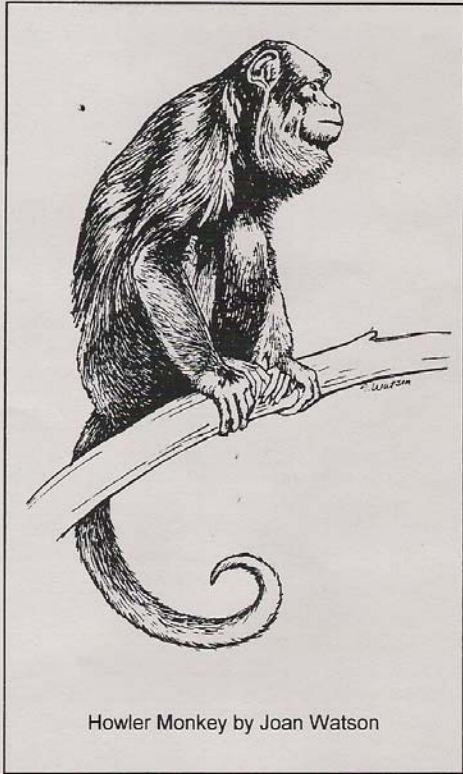
TOUCAN by W. Iwanbeo

My beautiful wings stretch wide apart, and glide gently.
My eyes gleam like marbles in the sunshine.
A rainbow beak
My body an elegant black,
A tail long and soft,
Shoes of blue
My snow white face smiles with delight
As I have an afternoon snack
Perched high up in my home, my mahogany tree.

“The point is that people— all people on earth — need tropical rain forests.”
Mark Collins
The Last Rain Forests
Oxford University Press
1990

by Sara

*Trees are as green as emeralds
With vines that touch the sky
Bright red flowers that are as blinding
as the sunset.
With clouds that are pure as snow.
The bright blue sky shimmers like
sapphire
Meanwhile, the midnight sky's stars
gleam like diamonds.*



Howler Monkey by Joan Watson