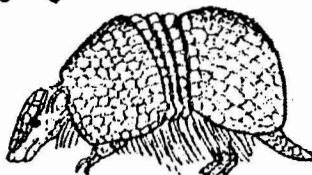


BIOLOGICAL INVENTORY NEWS

Nº 3



ASUNCION, PARAGUAY - APRIL, 1982

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 6° piso, Asunción, Paraguay, Sud America.

PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The National Biological Inventory is a long-term project aimed at the establishment of a National Museum of National History in Paraguay. The Museum, staffed and run by Paraguayans, will focus 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, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (US/FWS), the Smithsonian Institution, and the Missouri Botanical Garden. Funding for scholarships and supplies has been provided by Missouri Botanical Garden, Carnegie Museum, The World Wildlife Fund, and U.S. Agency for International Development (US/AID). Since March 1980, scientists from US/FWS have regularly visited Paraguay to conduct field studies and work with Paraguayan counterparts. A temporary museum has been established in the Forestry Service Office, which serves as headquarters for the Biological Inventory.

SCIENTIST VISITS

Drs. Don Wilson of US/FWS and James Solomon of the Missouri Botanical Garden visited Paraguay in February of this year and conducted field studies with Biological Inventory participants in National Park Cerro Corá. The two week trip provided important collections for Paraguay's Natural History Museum including a new country record, the long-legged bat (Macrophyllum macrophyllum) and nearly 400 plant species. Dr. Mercedes Foster will be arriving in July to help arrange publication of the guidebook to common vertebrates of Ybycui National Park.

PARAGUAY'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL WILDLAND SEMINAR

The first International Seminar on Wildland Planning and Management in Paraguay took place from March 17-23, 1982. The National Forest Service of Paraguay and Peace Corps jointly organized the seminar.

With the help of funds from US/AID, representatives from natural resource and Peace Corps programs in Ecuador, Costa Rica, and Guatemala participated. Paraguayan park rangers and other specialists and PCVs involved in wildland planning and management also participated in addition to representatives and speakers from the Biological Inventory.

Peace Corps funding enabled Drs. Curt Freese from US/FWS and Gary Wetterberg from the National Park Service to travel to Paraguay and serve as main speakers during the seminar.

The main objective of the seminar was "to offer an introduction to fundamentals and methods of wildland planning and management within a national context, using internationally known methods". The Biological Inventory was considered an integral part of national wildland planning.

A Paraguayan participant in the Inventory, biologist Isabel Gamarra, spoke on the organization of the Inventory project and how it can identify factors pertinent to wildland planning and management. Key phytogeographic zones, endemic species, rare and endangered species, and limiting factors of species such as territorial size, breeding habits, and other behaviors were indicated by Ms. Gamarra.

The initial part of the seminar took place in Asunción. Besides the Inventory's special talk, sessions were carried out on National Park System plans, park management planning, wildlife man-

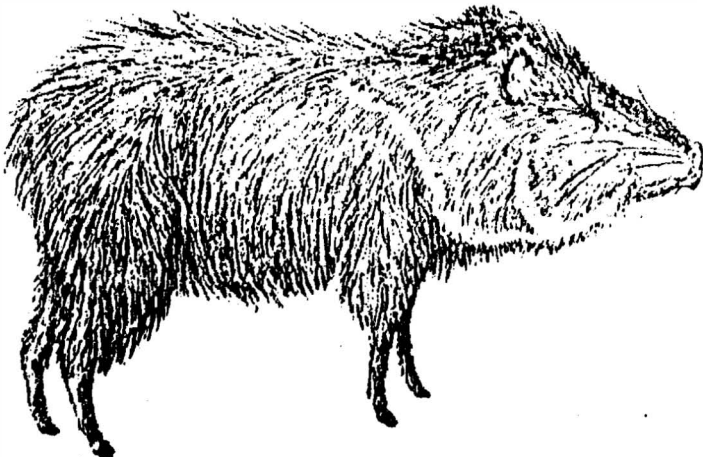
(Seminar continued)

agement plus other small group exercises and presentations.

The seminar then moved to Ybycui National Park where participants evaluated the park's management and development plans, learned how to write wildlife observations, and reviewed various international concerns on planning and management of wildlands.

EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH TAGUA IN ZOOS

The Chacoan peccary or Tagua (Catagonus wagneri) was known only from the fossil record until 1975 when it was discovered alive in Paraguay by Dr. Ralph Wetzel. Due to development patterns in the Chaco and hunting pressure, Tagua populations are rapidly dwindling. Already a "threatened" species, Catagonus will soon be reclassified as "endangered". To gain further knowledge about this unique species and help to assure its survival, a captive breeding herd should be established. Dr. Wetzel and PCV Mark Ludlow have been contacting zoos and individuals in an effort to find an institution wishing to obtain Catagonus and willing to help overcome the problem of laws restricting importation of peccaries. Hopefully, USDA will collaborate to waive the strict importation laws, and captive breeding herds will be established to help understand and protect the endangered Chacoan peccary.



DONATIONS RECEIVED FOR TRAINING

A major project objective is to get advanced museum training for Paraguayan participants. This year, the International Council for the Preservation of Birds and the Friends of the Smithsonian generously donated funds to help cover training expenses for a Paraguayan Ornithologist and an Entomologist. These funds will be used together with US/AID funds in order to send these participants to the USA for museum curation and management courses.

PROGRESS IN MUSEUM FACILITIES

The temporary headquarters of the National Museum of Natural History of Paraguay has recently acquired more materials and more space. The Museum now occupies six offices in the Forestry Service, which provide adequate housing for the project's rapidly growing collections.

Two more museum cabinets have been added for bird and mammal collections, as well as 300 glass-top jars for storage of liquid specimens. A wooden and screen drying cabinet that can be disassembled for field use was custom-made to avoid damage that insects can cause to bird and mammal skins.

Basic operating supplies purchased with funds from the World Wildlife Fund have arrived, and more supplies are being purchased with \$7,000 from US/AID funds.

INVENTORY TO RECEIVE LAND CRUISERS

The World Wildlife Fund most generously donated two diesel-powered Toyota Land Cruisers to the Biological Inventory project. These much needed vehicles will enable all six project sections to carry out field surveys of Paraguay's flora and fauna.

PCVs LEAVE INVENTORY PROJECT

PCVs Lee Fitzgerald and Larry Naylor will leave Paraguay this May. Lee has served as Project Coordinator and herpetologist while Larry has organized the Ichthyology Section and worked as Project Photographer. Their work and enthusiasm during the first crucial years of the project were of special importance. PCV David Norman will take Lee's place as Project Coordinator. Three replacements are being sought to work in ichthyology, botany, and mammalogy and ornithology. These jobs are scheduled for July and persons interested in becoming a PCV for the Biological Inventory should contact:

Dr. Mercedes Foster
National Museum of Natural
History, room 378
10th and Const. Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20560

Applicants should have a master's in biology or a bachelor's with field experience. It should be remembered that the goal of Peace Corps work is to train host-country people so that the work continues when the volunteer leaves.