



Figure 1. A masked titi monkey, *Callicebus personatus nigrifrons*, in a montane forest in the Reserva Particular do Patrimônio Natural do Caraça. Photo by M. F. Vasconcelos.

logging, and lost through fires. These forests should be protected for their role as corridors.

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Marcelo Ferreira de Vasconcelos, e-mail: <bacurau@mono.icb.ufmg.br> and André Hirsch, Instituto de Ciências Biológicas, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Caixa Postal 486, 30161-970 Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil, e-mail: <hirsch@mono.icb.ufmg.br>.

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## RECORDS OF HOWLERS (*ALOUATTA*) ON THE AZUERO PENINSULA AND CANAL ZONE OF PANAMA

Noel Rowe

Panama has two species of howler monkeys (Groves, 1992): the mantled howler (*Alouatta palliata aequatorialis*) and the Coiba Island howler (*A. coibensis*). The latter has two subspecies *A. c. coibensis*, found on Coiba Island, and *A. c. trabeata*, on the Azuero Peninsula. Although the mantled howler has been studied quite thoroughly in Panama on Barro Colorado Island, the last report published in the lit-

erature about *A. coibensis* was in 1987 (Froehlich and Froehlich, 1987). Here I report on some observations of howler monkeys during a survey from 8-28 January, 1998, on the Azuero Peninsula and the Canal Zone of Panama. Although it was our intention to visit Coiba Island as well, the permits required and the logistics involved proved too difficult for this short survey. Howler groups were located by their loud territorial calls. The number of individuals per troop was noted, photographs were taken and, when possible, age and gender of the individuals in the troop were also recorded.

#### Azuero Peninsula (*Alouatta coibensis trabeata*)

Although there are no population estimates for any of the primates of the Azuero Peninsula, the howler monkeys are the most easily seen, and are presumably the most common. INRENARE, which is in charge of managing the protected areas of Panama, has a distinct presence on the Azuero Peninsula. We were told of the efforts of one man on the eastern side of the Peninsula near Las Tablas who was campaigning to stop the hunting of howlers. The troop we saw next to the road may well owe its existence to this man's work.

January 8, 1998. During a trip to the INRENARE Las Tablas office, on the road to Tonosi (7°40'N, 80°20'W). One lone male seen who was vocalizing. Later, a troop of six was seen, also vocalizing, and comprised of two males, two females (one with an infant), and two juveniles. We were quite close to the troop. They did not flee, and continued howling for at least 20 minutes.

January 10-12, 1998. Five different troops of howlers were recorded while traveling from the INRENARE station at Punta Restinga in Cerra Hoya National Park (7°15'N, 80°55'W). One troop remained for three days in large trees along a stream near the road to Punta Restinga, where cattle are kept. Troop of eight was seen consisting of two males, one female with infant, two adults of unknown sex, and three juveniles.

January 13, 1998. Saw one troop of four in a small remnant forest by Señor Sanchez's house at Punta Restinga. The forest was isolated by open pasture. The troop consisted of one male, one female with an infant, and two juveniles.

January 13, 1998. One troop of howlers was heard on the steep hill on the left side of the Rio Mata Prio (7°15'N, 80°52'W). We took a boat from Punta Restinga to this valley and met the farmer who works this area of Cerra Hoya National Park. He walks or rides 3-4 hours from his village to spend a week or so in the Park each month. He reported seeing capuchins and spider monkeys only occasionally. He informed that he hunted peccaries with dogs.

#### Chorcha Plateau (*Alouatta palliata aequatorialis*)

The Chorcha plateau located near the town of Chorchita (8°23'N, 82°10'W). The forest on the plateau itself has been

cleared for agriculture, but there is still good forest on the steep slopes which are below the plateau.

January 14, 1998. Two howlers were seen climbing trees, close to dusk.

January 15, 1998. Three troops of howlers were heard from the road that goes up to the plateau. Two troops were seen. One troop of at least seven, included two males, one subadult male, two females (one with an infant), and two juveniles. A second troop intermixed with the first as it left a fruiting tree and the juveniles played together. This second troop had at least nine members; two males, two females, and five unidentified subadults or juveniles. Four white-throated capuchins, *Cebus capucinus*, were also seen.

#### Fortuna (*Alouatta palliata aequatorialis*)

Fortuna is on the Caribbean side of the continental divide to the west of the road to Isla Grande (8°50'N, 82°10'W).

January 21, 1998. One troop was seen and heard near to a stream to the west of Willie Mazu Eco Ranch. Four individuals were identified: one male, one female, and two juveniles.

#### Achiote Road, Canal Zone (*Alouatta palliata aequatorialis*)

Achiote Road is a protected forest in the west side of the canal zone south of Fort Sherman (9°15'N, 79°55'W) and had the largest numbers of howler troops seen on this survey. All of the troops observed appeared to have a range of ages, from infants to adults, and appeared to be thriving, except for evidence of botfly infestations in some individuals.

January 24, 1998. Eight troops of howlers were seen or heard from the road.

January 25, 1998. Three troops were seen, one with at least 10 individuals, including three females with infants. A second troop had 11+ individuals, including three females with infants. Seven troops were heard but not seen.

January 26, 1998. Two troops were seen. The first contained more than 12 individuals. Eleven individuals were counted in the second troop, which included a very young infant. One juvenile in this troop had a white band of fur toward the end of its tail. A further three troops were heard.

#### Conservation

Cerra Hoya National Park has a patrol house at Punta Restinga in which two guards are usually present. Each has a motorbike, and a horse shares the grounds around the house. We were told that arrests for tree cutting in the park were about to be made three days after our departure. The park is reasonably intact, but there are still farmers who have prior legal use of pastureland within the park boundaries. Hunting of peccaries and probably other species is still going on. The park itself was difficult

to survey due to its steepness and the lack of trails leading to the interior, although it is quite likely that there were more trails than our guide knew of, because he was new to the area. Efforts should be made to establish a base for further biological research to study this forest, which has a number of little known and endemic bird and mammal species.

Besides the Azuero Peninsula, there appear to be only a few areas on the Pacific side of Panama, west of the canal zone all the way to David, with suitable forest for primates. The one exception is the Plateau near the town of Chorita, which has several troops of howlers living in the forest that grows on the steep slopes. Efforts should be made to legally protect this valuable forest, which is also home to white-throated capuchin monkeys (*Cebus capucinus*).

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Noel Rowe, Primate Conservation Inc., 1411 Shannock Road, Charlestown, Rhode Island 02813-3726, USA, e-mail: <74227.2342@compuserve.com>.

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## News

### IUCN SPECIES SURVIVAL COMMISSION PETER SCOTT AWARDS FOR CONSERVATION MERIT

In honor of the late Sir Peter Scott, who served as chairman of the SSC from 1963 to 1967 and who is considered to be one of the fathers of conservation, the Peter Scott Award for Conservation Merit was given to three remarkable individuals, during the Second World Conservation Congress, Amman, Jordan, October 2000. Under Sir Peter Scott's leadership, the SSC developed into the largest of the six volunteer commissions of the IUCN and now incorporates the expertise of some 7,000 scientists, researchers and conservation practitioners throughout the world. Based on their dedication, persistence, commit-

ment and achievements in conservation the recipients of the award were, Peter Jackson, Marshall Murphee, and William Conway, all of whom have served the conservation community for many years and are each recognized as leading figures in the preservation of nature.

Peter Jackson, Chair of the SSC Cat Specialist Group, is best known for his conservation efforts in India on the critically endangered tiger. Among his many accomplishments, he served as the Director of Information for World Wildlife Fund International, and has published several books including, *Wild Cats: Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan* and *Riding the Tiger: Tiger Conservation in Human-Dominated Landscapes*. In 1997 he was made an officer of the Order of the Golden Ark by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands and was recently presented with the Salim Ali International Award for his work in conservation and ornithology in India by the Bombay Natural History Society.

Professor Marshall W. Murphee, Chair of the Sustainable Use of Wild Species Specialist Group, is noted for his work in the social sciences, particularly for his innovative thinking on integrating conservation issues and the human component. During the late 80's Marshall became Chairman of the Parks and Wildlife Board of Zimbabwe, the highest council on wildlife matters in the country, and in 1992 and 1994 he became part of the Zimbabwe delegation to CITES. His influence in sustainable use is far reaching, and as Director of the Center for Applied Social Sciences (CASS) at the University of Zimbabwe, he raised significant funding to empower CASS to develop a major applied socio-economic research programme. Truly a conservation leader who believes in "conservation with a human face", Marshall is a champion of sustainable wildlife use.

Dr. William G. Conway, former President of the Wildlife Conservation Society in New York, profoundly impacted conservation through his activities in conservation biology, wildlife propagation, the role of zoological parks, and ornithology. Serving as President of the Society since 1967, he altered the roles of both European zoological institutions and North American zoological parks and aquariums. Having persuaded the conservation community that effective conservation requires scientific knowledge and field research, he is responsible for creating an institution that participates in conservation activities in over 300 sites worldwide. A leader, writer and spokesman for conservation for over 40 years, William has written more than 200 articles and has supported many SSC Specialist Groups including those working on curassows, primates, peccaries, reptiles, crocodiles, freshwater turtles and sustainable use.

For more information on these remarkable individuals and/or the Peter Scott Award for Conservation Merit, please contact: Sue Mainka, Head IUCN Species Programme, e-mail: <SAM@hq.iucn.org> or Anna Knee, Communications Officer, Species Survival Commission, e-mail: <alk@iucn.org>.