Special Announcement!

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS WANTED.
PrimatesPeru is now accepting a new round of field research assistant applications. Ideal candidates will have a vested interest in studying primates and experience working in the rain forest. We encourage all those who feel that they meet these basic requirements to apply as soon as possible. Start day can be as early as March 1st, for a minimum of 3 mo.

Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January 17th</th>
<th>February 2</th>
<th>February 24th</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baby owl monkey rescued from forest floor</td>
<td>Ground Hogs Day in the jungle. Rhea Mac’s last day!</td>
<td>PrimatesPeru 4-month anniversary 😊</td>
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Latest News

Fairwell Rhea Mac

January 3rd, 2010 Rainiest Day at CICRA in 10 years

CICRA Researchers Rescue Baby Owl Monkey

Two F.C. Members Disappear
Just before dinner on 17th the whole team was in the lab having a “group talk” when Emeterio came in, bringing us a small gift. As it was getting dark it was initially hard to tell what the tiny creature was that he was so proudly carrying on his shoulder but when our eyes had adjusted we could see that it was an injured baby owl monkey. The poor animal had been found on the ground on the outskirts of the camp with a huge laceration on its side and its tail was broken in three different places. Mini and Gideon quickly moved into action, trying to clean up his wounds and splint the tail, while the rest of us stood around feeling very concerned. At that time it looked as though the little guy might not make it so dinner was a rather quiet one. Sarah Federman offered to feed him throughout the night as owl monkeys are nocturnal. Of all the species of monkeys we could have had to hand raise we would get the only nocturnal species in South America!

Much to everyones’ relief the monkey fed well during the night and started to look much brighter the following morning. Sarah had constructed a harness for him out of an old t-shirt and some thin rope so she could carry him around. He seemed to enjoy this as he frequently trilled, which is where he got his name from – Trino (Spanish for trill).

After a few more days of feeding every two hours and being lavished with attention from all of the females at the station, he was strong enough to grip things and moved from the harness to the top of Sarah’s head. It was very funny to see her trying to eat dinner with a baby monkey clambering over her head and down her hair!

The wound on its side seems to be healing nicely but the tail is still a problem so Sarah has taken him to a Veterinarian in Puerto Maldonado. Hopefully he will come back even better, but probably minus half of a tail. We shall keep you up to date with his progress in future newsletters.
“My day begins at 4:00, when my first (of three) alarm goes off. Depending on my mood, I either spring out of bed to get dressed, or I doze until my second alarm at 4:15 and my third at 4:30. I’ve been getting up between 4 and 4:15 so I have enough time to get dressed and eat something sort of substantial before heading out. By 4:30, I’ve walked down to the Commodore (the dining room) and am getting myself a nice helping of an oatmeal concoction affectionately known as monkey poo – raw oats, powdered milk, sugar, cocoa powder, and some hot water. Our lunches are in Tupperware waiting for us in the giant refrigerator, so we grab those, a spoon, and a few packs of cookies and saltines. For the first two weeks, the cookies were these orange squares that said, “Galletas con sabor de naranja” (orange flavored cookies). I don’t think I’ll ever be able to taste anything artificially orange flavored again without thinking of the Amazon. More recently, we’ve had chocolate flavored galletas, and also vanilla and strawberry wafers.

Generally, I’m back in the lab getting ready to head out between 4:45 and 5. I need to collect things like the GPS, the data book, a compass, flagging tape, the radio telemeter, and the dry bag. Plus apply DEET. We usually leave for the field between 5 and 5:15 so we can get to the tree the monkeys fell asleep in the night before. If we don’t know exactly where they went to sleep, we can use the radio telemeter to trace them because one member of the group has been radio collared. Generally, though, they wake up sometime between 5:30 and 6, and as soon as we see them pop out of their sleeping tree, we begin recording data.

### PrimatesPeru Health-list

Here’s the tally for the month, not including mosquitoes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mini</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gideon</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rhea</td>
<td>67 Chiggers</td>
<td>0 Bott flies</td>
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<tr>
<td>47 Chiggers</td>
<td>98 Chiggers</td>
<td>10 Fire Ants</td>
<td>0 Bullet Ants</td>
<td>2 Wasp Sting</td>
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<tr>
<td>0 Bott flies</td>
<td>8 Wasps</td>
<td>1 Bullet Ant</td>
<td>2 Wasp Sting</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Bullet Ants</td>
<td>1 Wasp Sting</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Emma</td>
<td></td>
<td>Erin</td>
<td>50 Chiggers</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Chiggers</td>
<td>120 Chiggers</td>
<td>0 Bott flies</td>
<td>15 Fire ants</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>0 Bott flies</td>
<td>0 Bott flies</td>
<td>0 Bullet Ants</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Bullet Ants</td>
<td>0 Bullet Ants</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Wasp Sting</td>
<td>25 Fire ants</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Bamboo Spike</td>
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First Impressions from Erin & Karina
First Impressions Cont…

We take scans of behavior of all members of the group every 10 minutes, and there is a constant focal being recorded about the twins – what they’re doing, who they’re interacting with, who’s carrying them, things like that. Plus we record some additional data on specific things like mating, fights, and scent marking.

Following the monkeys generally consists of short bursts of stressful running after them or pushing through bamboo, followed by longer periods of sitting in the same place while they forage or rest. Recently, they’ve been spending ridiculously long amounts of time in brambles where they are entirely out of sight. Then they take 20 minutes or so to travel to a different bramble, eat a little on the way, and then spend another hour or two out of sight. Between 8 or 9, I usually am hungry and need a little more energy, so eat a pack of crackers. Lunchtime comes around 11 between scans, or sometimes we take 15 minutes apart from the monkeys to eat with all our attention. We usually get rice and either the previous night’s dinner, or lentils. The time between about 11 and 1 is when I personally have the hardest time keeping on top of things…”

Posting by Erin Kane, read more at http://thegreatblueerin.blogspot.com/

PrimatesPeru Field Team. Order from left to right: Mini Watsa, Gideon Erkenswick, Rhea Mac, Erin Kane, Karina Klonoski, Emma Wallace
First Impressions Cont…

“A quick introduction to life in the Amazon Rainforest: just as I was sitting down to write this blog post, I heard Mini frantically calling out, “Squirrels! Squirrels!” Rushing outside with my binoculars to the embankment overlooking the river, I was greeted by the sight of squirrel monkeys grooming each other and rushing up and down branches in the trees directly in front of me. Better yet, there were several capuchins swinging about on the branches (incredibly smart monkeys; they will throw things at you when you walk near them!) and a spider monkey lounging comfortably in a nearby tree. As I stood there watching the monkeys for about half an hour, I couldn’t believe that this is actually my life.

I arrived at the Los Amigos Biological Station, otherwise known as CICRA, about six days ago via a five-hour boat ride. Upon arrival, we had to carry ridiculous amounts of equipment up the 270 stairs leading to the field station. The station itself is in a beautiful location; surrounded by the Amazon, plenty of fruit trees, lush green vegetation.

That night, I trekked back to the cabin in which I’ll be staying for the duration of my stay, immediately tucking the mosquito net into the bed to prevent any unwanted visitors. A good decision, it turns out, as I spotted several cockroaches scurrying around the walls in my headlight beam. Mild freakout ensued until I realized I was too tired to actually care (though I did obsessively check my bed before settling in, much to the annoyance of my cabin mate, Emma). As I attempted, and failed, to sleep that night, I was introduced to the complete darkness and cacophony of sounds that characterizes the jungle at night. Several times, I held my hand about an inch away from my face and somehow managed to be surprised every time I realized that I couldn’t see it. The sounds of various animal calls were constant and loud. I kept hearing a strange noise that I couldn’t place, quickly convincing myself that a jaguar was rubbing against the outside of the cabin (which isn’t completely ludicrous, as they’ve been spotted 200m from camp). Extremely terrified, I grabbed my swiss army knife and lay completely motionless for a pretty ridiculous amount of time. I finally realized that the noise was Emma moving in her sleep and was able to relax a bit.

After a day or two of settling in, we began our follows of the tamarin group that has already been trapped and tagged. There are four adults in this group as well as two twins, and they have been marked with beads and have had their tails bleached with different patterns to allow for individual identification. Now I expected monkey tracking to be hard, but it’s even harder than I imagined. The best way I can describe it is that you are literally bushwhacking the Amazon Rainforest. It’s a pretty intense experience….” Posting by Karina Klonoski, read more at http://www.travelblog.org/Bloggers/kklonosk
With great regret we inform you that two members of the F.C. group have gone missing, and we do not expect them to return. Either they have migrated to a distant group of saddleback tamarins, which we have not yet encountered, or they have been met by a fatal accident or predator. We are deeply sad to have lost two of F.C.’s unique characters. These occurrences remind us that we are working in the wild where life is extremely unpredictable.

We’ll miss you guys…

GBY

GBW AKA Barnaby
This is How and Why I Write in the Jungle

By Mini Watsa

This is why and how I write in the jungle - it has rained so much that we have been indoors ever since lunch, my battery is at 28% and dropping, my tamarin group just visited the station and dropped off the embankment out of sight, and it’s my twenty-sixth *gulp* birthday tomorrow.

I’ve managed to take a big break and watch the first two episodes of ‘Buffy - the Vampire Slayer’ and boy, were the 90s weird! I thought I’d feel this way about the 90s in forty years but it’s already happened...a sign of the times changing? Or just the way things work?

I’ve been drowning in PrimatesPeru and have recently received a flurry of complaining emails from the real world demanding more blog updates. I start guiltily at the sight of each email and quickly archive them making silent promises to write. Now that I finally have 26% of battery life left and no tamarins in sight, all I can think of is how I ought to have written earlier! My flow of thoughts is woefully disturbed but I will do my best in the next few paragraphs to bring you all up to speed.

The most remarkable change to the project is, of course, the recent growth of our wolf-pack, so to speak. We have four new assistants (who will be reading this) and I unashamedly admit that they are a handful! I spent weeks planning for them and in about two days had to admit that all my planning couldn’t have prepared me for all the excitement of having them around. They are a wonderfully interesting group of young ladies and have so much compassion and spunk... I love it!! We are now working out how we can all of us be mot useful to the project while also allowing them to learn a whole lot about the rainforest in the process. The next four months should be interesting for our wolf pack!

I’ve mentioned our group, FC, so many times on this blog that I feel like they deserve a proper introduction before I proceed any further. They have been the center of my life for the last few months (sorry Gid!) and merely being with them momentarily will show you why...since this is tough on most of you, I’ll try to do my best with the now 16% of battery life I have left!!!

FC was a frequent visitor to camp last summer. They consisted of seen individuals, including a single infant who was about 3 months old by the time I first saw him...Continued at www.primatesperu.com/blog