

Project Update: December 2012

I collected my data in the Loreto region of northern Peru during the months of February, March, end of April, May, June, July and August in 2011. Part of my data was also collected in 2009 during the months of June and July in the PSNR and Lago Preto.

For the data collection in 2011, a set of 40 camera-traps were brought to the Peruvian Amazon for a period of five months. Once I had set up the camera traps, I carried out regular line transects ranging from 3 to 7.2 km during the course of the fieldwork period.

The trapping effort yielded data for 1935 trap days corresponding to a total of 8174 photographs of which 6047 were useful. A total of 31 mammal species as well as eight game bird species were captured on the camera traps. Other species which will not be included in the analysis include monitor lizards, giant land tortoise, leaf-cutter ants and several bird species such as the blue crowned mot-mot, black fronted nun birds, green ibis, boat-billed herons, cocoi herons and a rare species of sun grebe- *Heliornis fulica*. I made various attempts in challenging conditions to obtain photographs of the Giant River otter *Pteronura brasiliensis* but to no avail. A single individual of Neotropical otter was captured on camera trap in 2009 in Lago Preto.

The data that I collected during the line transects resulted in the sighting and recording of 17 mammal species (both arboreal and terrestrial) as well as six game bird species. During these line transects, I travelled a total of 244 kilometres.

The data is currently being analysed and preliminary results have revealed an interesting insight into the rainforest species particularly the natural history of jaguars and ocelots.