



ARCO – Anfibios y Reptiles en Conservación
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Quarterly News Letter. Spring 2013



Brief History

Arco Spain is a unique place which has evolved as a result of the interests, expertise and work of the founder, Professor Hermann Schleich with help from a variety of dedicated volunteers. The project was set up in the grounds of Hermann’s home at Tabernas in Southern Spain, initially as a centre for the conservation of endangered species and a centre for the accommodation of amphibians and reptiles, maintenance, investigation and propagation of endangered species (eg. From European Studbook Foundation) or CITES. Arco has also become a Rescue Centre for highly endangered species in collaboration with official authorities.

ARCO España es un lugar único, situado en Tabernas (Almería) en el que el profesor Hermann Schleich cedió los terrenos de su propia casa para con la ayuda dedicados voluntarios crear un centro para la conservación, alojamiento, mantenimiento e investigación de reptiles, anfibios y otros especímenes CITES, convirtiéndose en un centro de rescate de estas especies en colaboración con autoridades oficiales.

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Egyptian Kleinmanni Tortoise

These miniature, attractive tortoises are native to Egypt and Libya and, at one time, could be found in large numbers in an extensive area from Libya to Egypt. Today they are confined to a small area and are gradually disappearing. Over the years, they have been hunted, collected and sold on the markets. So much so their numbers have diminished and today they have the CITES status of highly endangered species. A group of Kleinmannis was assigned to Arco during the summer of 2009, having come from Rome where they had been confiscated by customs. They had taken a long journey and some were in poor condition on arrival.

Arco have a large enclosures for land many species. The enclosures provides plenty of space, grasses, herbs and cacti. These tortoises remain active during winter but when the weather is hot, they show little activity, being lethargic and hiding away. The group has presented with many problems during their time at Arco and a number have died. Support has been given by Murcia University, who have helped particularly with investigative analysis. Breeding has been unsuccessful so far and careful monitoring is crucial.

Tortuga kleinmanni de Egipto: Estas pequeñas tortuguitas son originarias de Egipto y Libia y están cada vez más amenazadas por el tráfico y venta en mercados, por lo que hoy en día se encuentran en el Anexo I de CITES. Desde el verano de 2009, ARCO cuenta con un grupo de esta especie alojado en un gran recinto natural. Su cría es tan complicada que aún no ha sido exitosa, pero en colaboración con la Universidad de Murcia se está luchando por conseguir nacimientos que ayuden a recuperar a esta bonita especie.

Marmoset monkeys

Arrived last year and quickly settled in. They have a large enclosure which they share with extremely vocal Patagonian parrots and a few Bearded dragons. The natural habitat of the Marmoset monkey is found in the forests of Brazil. They are about the size of a squirrel and are attractive and friendly. In the wild they feed on insects, fruit and nuts but, at Arco, we are supplementing their diet with baby formula and yoghurt. They do not like the cold weather and a special insulated casita has been prepared with a heat pad for extra warmth during winter. To our huge and great surprise they presented their first baby in March. Unfortunately, the baby has not been seen recently and is presumed to be no longer alive.



Hace un año que contamos también con una simpática pareja de monos tití, que conviven en su recinto con cacatúas argentinas y dragones barbudos. Originarios de los bosques de Brasil, son del tamaño de una ardilla, y conseguimos por primera vez tener una pequeña cría el pasado Marzo.

A Day As A Volunteer

Arriving at Arco on a beautiful sunny morning with an open mind and prepared to turn your hand to anything can be enjoyable and rewarding. Feeding the monkeys is always a favourite. They are friendly, and once they have one's trust, will feed from the hand. Checking all the enclosures and ponds, feeding and clearing is an important part of the day. No two days are the same and the seasons bring their different tasks to be done. Each year several days are spent draining the large ponds and carrying out a census of the turtles that have arrived during the breeding season. Other groups must be weighed, measured and checked for good health. Volunteers are always needed and welcomed.



Los voluntarios en ARCO son necesarios y siempre bienvenidos. Puede ser muy gratificante echar una mano con cualquier cosa. Alimentar a los monos es siempre una gozada, se confían muy rápido y podrás darles de comer a mano. Censar las tortugas, comprobar los estanques y limpieza de los recintos es una parte muy importante en el día a día, y nunca sabes qué cosas nuevas deparará un nuevo día, y si nos visitas en distintas estaciones verás cosas muy distintas

Recent volunteer Job day

On Friday the 12th April a group of volunteers met to carry out a series of tasks, which included clearing algae from turtle ponds, collecting and measuring tortoises, moving feeding troughs and an animal shelter. The volunteers were treated to an excellent lunch cooked by Hermann. The volunteers included Alfredo, who is a recently qualified Vet pictured on the right with Terry measuring a tortoise. Alfredo has agreed to spend his summer working as a volunteer at ARCO in order to gain valuable experience.



One of the volunteers, Bill Geldeard, often adds to the mix with his years of experience as a mechanic, spending time servicing the centre's work vehicles.



El viernes 12 de abril, un grupo de voluntarios se reunieron para llevar a cabo una serie de tareas, que incluye limpieza algas de los estanques de tortugas, la recolección y medición tortugas, la confección de comederos y refugios móviles y un animal refugio. Los voluntarios pudieron disfrutar de un excelente almuerzo cocinado por Hermann, al más puro estilo alemán. Nos visitó también Alfredo, veterinario recién licenciado que ha acordado ayudarnos de manera voluntaria durante el verano para adquirir experiencia. Uno de los voluntarios, Bill Geldeard, a menudo se añade a la mezcla con sus años de experiencia como mecánico, pasar tiempo reparar vehículos de trabajo del centro

Nature's Challenges and Laws or Natural Incidents at ARCO

On April 15th 2013 a wild “**Culebra bastarda**” (*Malpolon monspessulanus*) tried to bring harm to our Patagonian parrots and Marmosets. But greediness had been punished with its life by getting caught and suffocated in the meshes of our security inside double-door-curtain. The snake measured 129 cm (tail 31 cm) and its necropsis showed an empty stomach— thus probably from a hungry snake.



Two years ago we had another incident by the same species but a still bigger specimen that killed and preyed on four a few weeks old turkey babies (photo to the right showing the snake while swallowing one of them).

A **marten** was another predator on our animals which killed 7 guinea fowls and two goose babies in spring last year (photo shows a caught and released animal from a neighbour's site).....



..... and at least 30 carp had been speared by a **grey heron** on our main balsa. All of them showed the hole from being punched by the bird's long bill, but due to their big size could not have been swallowed.

Los retos y las Leyes de la Naturaleza o incidentes naturales en ARCO

El 15 de abril 2013 una culebra bastarda (*Malpolon monspessulanus*) trató de hacer daño a nuestros loros patagónicos y titís. Pero su codicia fue castigada con su vida al quedar atrapados y asfixiados en nuestras redes de seguridad dobles en el interior de la instalación. La serpiente midió 129 cm (cola de 31 cm) y su necropsias mostró un estómago vacío. 2 años antes ya tuvimos un incidente parecido pero en aquella ocasion mató a varios pollos de pavo. La marta era otro depredador en nuestro centro. Varias de ellas mataron a 7 gallinas de guinea la primavera pasada. Y al menos 30 carpas habían sido lanceadas por una garza real en nuestra balsa principal, todas ellas agujereadas por el pico de la garza pero que no pudieron ser tragadas por ellas debido a su gran tamaño.

Diary Dates

Annual Assemblage/AGM The annual meeting of Arco took place on the 11th November 2012. Members and friends were welcomed. Again, this get-together took place in the aula (museum), the meeting being much later in the year than previously. A slide show and talk was given both on Arco in Spain and Nepal. With the formal part of the meeting over, everyone enjoyed tapas and drinks. The aula is now available for use by students, visitors and children. There are specimens to see from many parts of the world giving a great insight into fossils, rocks, herpetology.

La asamblea anual de ARCO tuvo lugar el 11 de noviembre de 2012. Miembros y amigos fueron recibidos en el aula-museo para comentar los aspectos más importantes del año en ARCO-España y ARCO-Nepal. En este aula-museo tenemos especímenes de todo el mundo, fósiles y rocas disponibles para el uso de estudiantes, niños y visitantes.

The 2013 Annual Assemblage

Will take place on the **May at 18th ARCO, commencing at 12.30 p.m.** Members and friends will all be made welcome.

La asamblea anual 2013 se llevará a cabo el **18 de mayo en ARCO, a las 12.30h.** Los miembros y amigos serán todos bienvenidos.

World Turtle Day

This takes place annually on the 23rd May. A day to celebrate these ancient creatures which have been on the planet for 200 million years. Go on-line to learn more. There will be opportunities to make a donation.

El Día Mundial de la Tortuga será el 23 de mayo. Un día para celebrar que estas antiguas criaturas que han estado en el planeta durante 200 millones de años. Será una oportunidad estupenda para hacer una donación.

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