



MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA Y CRIA  
 S. J. Maness & R. Godshalk  
 ESTACION BIOLÓGICA DE RANCHO GRANDE  
 APARTADO 184  
 MARACAY

22 June, 1976

No. ....

Sr. Alvaro Maldonado  
 I.N.V.E.G.A.  
 Calle Peñe  
 Valencia, Carabobo

Dear Sr. Alvaro Maldonado:

In a recent letter from Dr. Eisenberg of the National Zoological Park, Smithsonian, he reconfirmed their interest in supporting my Caiman and Podocnemis (galapago) work for the year 1978. He also mentioned that they are seriously looking into pre-fab housing to be shipped down to Venezuela as had been discussed with your father.

Robert and I would like permission to come down to El Frio for the first week of July for about 10 days. We also hope to return to El Frio for three weeks in August to take advantage of the Caiman nesting season.

In addition, we would like to bring two guests with us for the July trip, Mr. Steven L. Hilty and his wife Beverly. Mr. Hilty is a doctoral candidate in ornithology at the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85712. His research interest is in the seasonality of plant vegetative and reproductive structures in tropical ecosystems and their impact on ecology of frugivorous (fruit eating) and nectivorous (nectar eating) birds.

The main emphasis of his work is with tanengers of the genus Tangara. His research has been mainly in Colombia and he has been making observations here at Rancho Grande. If possible I would like him to see the Llanos, particularly El Frio.

He also leads "bird tours" in Colombia, the Andes and Amazonia. There are bird tours scheduled for Colombia this July, Venezuela for the winter of 1976-1977 and Costa Rica 1977. He operates out of a private company called Bird Bananzas from North Miami, Florida. Perhaps if you are down at the Ranch you would like to talk with him.

Robert and I are also hoping that you and your family will come up to Rancho Grande one of these days to see the museum, our live reptiles, the cloud forest, and slides of ours from El Frio, the Gand Sabana, Roraima, Bolivia etc. Please drop us a line so we can make some fiijo plans.

Please also see that the enclosed letter gets to Peter.

Thanks alot,

*Scott Jay Maness*  
 Scott Jay Maness:  
 Zoologist