

PICTURES OF A BRAZILIAN EXPEDITION

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I remember JÁNOS BALOGH, the knowledgeable ecologist and the public fighter of great stature for the cause of our environment. We had a very close relationship for exactly 40 years. I learnt a lot from him both in professional and human terms. I was lucky enough to join his Brazilian expedition and spend two weeks with him in 1992, after the World Conference on Environment in Rio. It was a fantastic experience. He is a unique personality and keeping company with him in a tropical jungle is of special interest. An experience for life. He was collecting soil and plant samples in order to acquire new data about the living world, ATTILA BANKOVICS and myself primarily studied birds.

Professor BALOGH made video recordings in the meantime. I used them for editing a five-minute long film. There are four scenes in it. In the first one he is taking photographs of a toucan. In the second one he demonstrates and explains the methodology of collecting samples. The third series of images were shot in Pantanal Marshes. We are sitting in a big metal boat driven by a propeller in the rear, so the boat is riding along the vegetation-covered water surface. The background noise is caused by the engine. Soon you will see the vast jaburu, the marsh



J. BALOGH taking videofilm above Pantanal, Mato Grosso, Brazil (1992). At right hand Prof. I. LÁNG
(Photo: A. BANKOVICS)



Left: J. BALOGH collecting plant debris from trees of a gallery forest along River Paraguay (Mato Grosso, Brazil, 1992). Right: same place with Prof. I. LÁNG (Photo: A. BANKOVICS)

deer and the caiman. The last shots taken by ATTILA BANKOVICS show JÁNOS BALOGH as he is collecting insects and other small creatures. At the end of the shot he is putting the samples into a box and says: that's it. Chance so ordained that JÁNOS BALOGH then recorded the sunset. You will see that, as well.

All he said was "that's it", and then came the sunset. But remember, all this happened in 1992. After that he had another 10 years of research and creative work.

We will keep in mind his memory and teaching. And now let us have a look at the pictures.