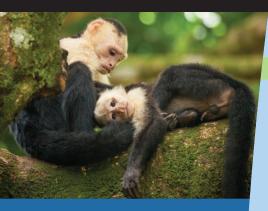
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About Our Cover

These young white-faced capuchin monkeys, Cebus capucinus, are a common sight for sharp-eyed tourists in Central America. This pair was relaxing at the forest edge of Manuel Antonio National Park on Costa Rica's central Pacific coast. Of Costa Rica's four native species of monkeys, capuchins are the most easily habituated to humans. Some North Americans may still remember this species as the "organ grinder's monkey" from times gone by. Their expression and curiosity are captivating, home captivity can rarely provide. Ownership of monkeys as pets is not supported by reputable animal-care organizations.

Early explorers of Central America found the color patterns of these primates reminiscent of the robes of 15th-century Franciscan monks and named the abundant monkeys after the Order of Friars of Minor Capuchin. Species-level taxonomy is still being examined, but the genus name, Cebus, is derived from the Greek word kêbos meaning a long-tailed monkey.

Capuchins move rapidly through a range of forest types as they search for a varied diet of occasional sandwich pilfered from unsuspecting tourists. They are increasingly recognized as crucial seed dispersers in rainforest ecosystems, Population stability of all New World monkeys is concerning, and although white-faced capuchins are regarded as of "least concern" by conservation agencies, deforestation and the pet trade take a heavy toll.

The photo was taken by Darrell Vodopich (Biologyimaging.com) using a Canon 7D II, Canon 400 mm at ISO 800, F5.6, 1/160 sec.

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