

# Zoo Ave

**By Dana Schlieman**

The zoo in La Garita is a nice place to spend a few hours. Although the zoo contains mostly birds, other animals can be found there as well. These animals include monkeys, turtles, mountain lions, lizards, caimans and alligators.

Placed in a natural setting, the zoo is kind of like a rain forest; an altered rain forest. The weather is relatively cool, but not cold. All in all, a very enjoyable trip to take. In the case of birdwatchers, it is a place to study and watch hundreds of different species of birds. Animal lovers, such as me, can enjoy watching the numerous animals, taking pictures of them. The species all have their own way of acting when being watched by humans. Some of them just stare at their admirers; others show off by putting on a fascinating show. The monkeys are especially conceited, and they prove it by climbing ropes and posing for pictures.

The path that winds through the zoo leads you in a circle *from* the entrance, and back *to* the entrance. This path takes you to each and every one of the species in the zoo. People can pack a lunch and eat at a small table near the entrance. Also, one can buy special souvenirs at the little counter. Souvenirs might include animal puppets, posters, coloring books, etc. The atmosphere in the zoo might make you want to stay there all day, or come back frequently. Personally, I have been there more than five times, and I don't believe I could ever get bored.

The Zoo Ave is located in Dulce Nombre, La Garita, 2.5 kms. East of "Manolo's". It opens every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. including holidays. Their phone number is 433-8989. Admission fee for foreigners is \$15.00, other prices apply for residents and Citizens.