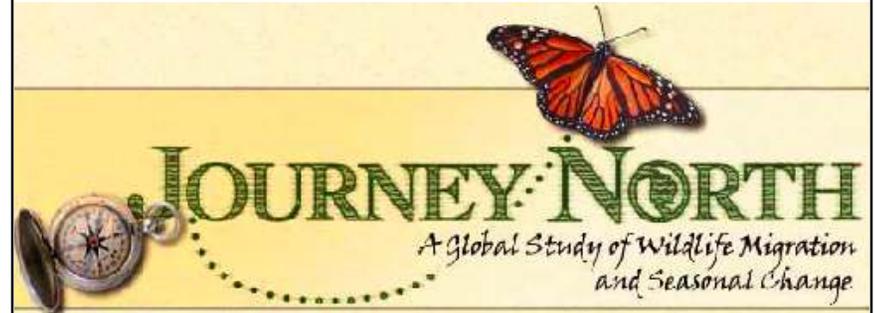




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A Glimpse at Daily Life in Garatachea

A Report from Naomi



Naomi with her pet kitten Regalo ("gift")

My brother Gustavo and I have to get up at 5:00 a.m. every morning. We have become accustomed to living with our aunt and cousins as our parents have temporarily left for the city to find work. My older brother, Luis Alberto stays with us and our aunt prepares most of our meals.



Gustavo, who is 12, really likes to ride our horse, which is a "Pinaco." He can saddle and mount it faster than anyone in our family.

Getting Basic Necessities: Water and Heat

A long time ago our water used to come in a big, plastic container already clean for drinking. Within the last year, it has become more difficult to get new containers.



Therefore our **canao** (trough for water) collects the water from the mountains around us.



We use this water for everything.



Naomi washing clothes near the "canao."



We don't need to cut any trees for firewood, but collect only what has already fallen or from dead trees. We then make piles or what we call **guacal**. Gustavo and his cousin can stack faster than I can, but sometimes I laugh because the guacal will fall over as soon as they are done.



Naomi's brother and cousin stacking firewood for transport.

Herding Sheep

I am very good at herding the sheep. I have to bring them out in the morning and back in at night.



Many people come to us to buy pieces of **wool (salea)**. They will use the salea to make yarn and create blankets, **gabanés (ponchos)** or sweaters. Some mothers will simply use this wool piece as a padding for their babies to sleep on.



Preparing Food

Molcahuete is the stone bowl we use to prepare salsa.



I can eat 10 tortillas every day and I prefer milk over tea, beans over eggs, salsa over jam, fruit over candy.



Naomi at work with daily household chores.

Until next time, Good-bye!