

INSTALLING AND MONITORING ARTIFICIAL NESTS BY THE HYACINTH MACAW IN THE PANTANAL, BRAZIL.

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In the Pantanal region, one of the factors limiting reproduction of the endangered species, the Hyacinth Macaw *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus* which have a low reproductive rate, is the scarcity of cavities in trees. To minimize this factor, 70 artificial nests were installed in 1997 and a further 35, in 1998. In 1997, we saw that 52% (N=36) of the nests were used by the Hyacinth Macaws, 22% (N=15) remained empty, 11% (N=8) were taken over by bees *Apis mellifera*, 11% occupied by other species and 4% were used by the Green Winged Macaw *Ara chloroptera*. Of those nests used by the Hyacinth Macaws, eggs were laid in 16% (N=6) but only 5% (N=2) were successful with their chicks. In 1998, of the 77 artificial nests monitored, 51% (N=39) were used by the Hyacinth Macaws, 28% (N=20) remained empty, 23% (N=18) were occupied by other species. Of those nests used by the Hyacinth Macaws 10% (N=4) were used by pairs that laid eggs. Of these, predators took one pair's eggs and another eggs were infertile. Two pairs successful raised chicks to see them fly. Apart from the Hyacinth Macaws, 32 nests were occupied by 9 species in 1997 and 42 nests by 12 species in 1998. Muscovy duck *Cairina* was the specie showing the highest incidence of occupation of the boxes (N=7 in 1997 and N=12 in 1998). Although the number of artificial nests successfully occupied by Hyacinth Macaws was small, we believe that the availability of nests is a way of contributing to the species' conservation short term as other types of bird species that compete for nests have successfully occupied these artificial ones.



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