

REPRODUCTIVE SUCCESS OF THE GREEN-WINGED MACAW IN THE PERIOD 1990-1998, PANTANAL, BRAZIL.

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The geographical distribution of the Green-winged Macaw runs from Eastern Panama to the North of Argentina. Highly prized commercially, its biological information and habits in the wild are virtually unknown, and reproduction data has been gathered mainly from birds in captivity. The objective of this work was to establish the Green-winged Macaw's reproductive success in its natural environment. The study was carried out in the period between 1990 and 1998 in the Southern Pantanal region. On average 22% (N=41, it varied from 4 - 46%) of the active nests (N=186) were used only by Green-winged Macaws, 21% (N=40, varying from 0 - 31%) were lost to other species and 57% (N=105, varying from 39 - 74%) laid their eggs. About 76% (variation from 50 - 100%) of the pairs that laid eggs had their chicks hatching. Eighty pairs produced 118 chicks of which 103 flew. On average, in 41% of the nests, two chicks survived except in 1990 and 1995 when the success rate was higher in nests with two chicks. From zero to 50% of the nests can be taken by predators or lost each year. In a sample of 49 nests, the average number of eggs laid was 2.12 (N=104, varied from 1 - 4). Only 6% (N=3) laid 4 eggs, however more than two survivors were never found. Reproductive success in the period analyzed was 1.32 chicks/pair (varied from one to two). These results raise the discussion on the influence of environmental changes and the limitation of nests on successful reproduction of the Green-winged Macaws in the Pantanal region.



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