

BIOLOGY, MONITORING STRATEGIES AND CONSERVATION OF HYACINTH MACAWS IN THE PANTANAL, BRAZIL.

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The Hyacinth Macaw *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*, the largest psittacine of the world is listed by IBAMA and by CITES and as a threatened species. Since 1991 we have studied the reproductive biology of the species and monitored 122 Hyacinth Macaw nests in the Nhecolândia and Abobral (since 1994) regions of the Pantanal. Hyacinth Macaws averaged two eggs per nest and the adults nested only once every two years. Egg predation occurred in 30%-40% of closely monitored clutches. Nesting success varied from 1.29 chicks fledged per nest (N=24 nests) in 1991, 1.25 in 1992 (N=20 nests), 1.16 in 1993 (N=24 nests) and 1.16 chicks fledged per nest in 1994 (N=30 nests). To establish conservation and management methods, we have experimented with artificial nest boxes, and in the last year, with the restoration of nests and translocation of chicks. Two Hyacinth chicks seized from the pet trade were returned to the wild, placed in a nest with foster parents, and fledged successfully. Radio transmitters have been placed on fledglings to test attachment methods and to monitor individual movements and 35 fledglings have been banded. International demand continues to fuel illegal traffic in Hyacinth Macaws, although at lower levels than in previous years. A wide-reaching environmental education program, with recommendation for land-use and ecotourism, has been instituted.



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