

# COMPETITION AND LOSSES OF HYACINTH MACAWS NESTS IN THE PANTANAL, BRAZIL.

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Wild populations of Hyacinth Macaws (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*) have been reduced and even eliminated by human activities such as capture of live animals, poaching by Indians for feather works, and habitat destruction. In the Pantanal wetland, the population from Nhecolândia sub-region was found that 94% of nests are placed in *Sterculia striata* trees, which grow in fertile soils. In these trees the natural cavities are easily improved by Hyacinth Macaws to nest. Nests were found in 1990 (N=51) and monitoring in 1991 (N=73), in 1992 (N=89), in 1993 (N=98) and in 1994 (N=122). An annual average of 5% of the nests (3.9%, 4.1%, 6.7% and 6.1%) were lost, mainly because fire deforestation, storms and also, due to continuous utilization in several consecutive years. Competition for cavities with other species was found to be remarkable (Green-wing Macaws Collared Forest-falcons, Black Vultures, Muscovy Ducks and Honeybees). Hyacinth Macaw is sedentary and highly specialized. The wild populations could be reduced to critical levels because the lack of suitable number of nesting sites. Therefore, it is very important to evaluate the population dynamics of *S. striata* and its response to cattle grazing, fire and other anthropogenic factors.



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