

REPRODUCTIVE SUCCESS OF THE HYACINTH MACAW OVER AN EIGHT YEAR PERIOD IN THE PANTANAL, BRAZIL.

N. M. R. GUEDES¹.

¹Universidade para o Desenvolvimento do Estado e Região do Pantanal, Projeto Arara Azul, araraazul@uol.com.br.

Resident, monogamous, highly specialized in their feeding and nesting sites, the Hyacinth Macaw *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus* is threatened. Since 1990, we have studied the biology, management and conservation of this species in the Pantanal. The objective of this work was to analyze the reproductive success of the species in the period from 1991 to 1998. Of the active Hyacinth Macaw nests, a mere 10 to 23% were used and 8 to 26% were lost to other species. A 68 to 80% portion of the breeding pairs laid eggs, except in 1995 and 1996 when this figure fell to 57%. Of the nests, predators invaded 14 to 37%. Of the pairs laid eggs, 63 to 86% hatched their chicks. Of the 247 nests, 43% had two chicks. There were 352 chicks hatched of which 269 flew. Higher mortality was noted for the second chick. Although the specie's reproductive potential has varied from 1.71 to 2.00 eggs/female, reproductive success (SR) varied from 1.29 to 0.97 chicks/pair. Hence, a Hyacinth Macaw pair that lays eggs has a 65 to 93% chance of seeing at least one of its chicks fly the nest. As an example, in 1997, 50 pairs laid 78 eggs however, predators invaded nine nests and two set new clutches. A total of 41 pairs had 57 chicks, of which 16 with two chicks in each nest. Five nests had the chicks taken by predators. In the end, 36 pairs flew 44 chicks giving a SR rate of 1.07 chicks/pair. In 1997 the SR rate was better than that of 1996, which may be explained by the installation of artificial nests.



INSTITUTO ARARA AZUL
Rua Klaus Sturk, 178
Jd Mansur - 79051-660
Campo Grande - MS
CNPJ: 05.910.537/0001-02
Inscr. Estadual: Isento
projetoararaazul@uol.com.br



www.projetoararaazul.org.br

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