

Project Update: March 2006

We have just finished the 2005-2006 Alder Amazon breeding season. We searched 100 ha intensively for Alder Amazon nests from November 2005 to March 2006 in El Rey National Park. We were able to identify nine nests of Alder Amazon: five in *Blephalocalyx salicifolius*, two in *Podocarpus parlatorei*, one in *Juglans australis*, and one in a snag. Nests were found in trees that had a mean DBH of 0.88 m (minimum DBH of 0.6 m and maximum of 1.14 m). We monitored only six nests with a camera system attached to a 15 m extensible pole, since the other three nests were too high to be reached with the camera system. Egg laying started in the beginning of December. Nests produced a mean of 3.6 eggs and 3.1 fledglings. As other Amazon parrot species, Alder Amazon shows brood reduction, i.e., some chicks die in a clutch but siblings survive. We observed three nests with brood reduction.

Fledglings left the nests after mid-February. The density of nests was 0.09 nest/ha (i.e., 1 nest in 11.1 ha). This information will be useful to compare with harvested sites to determine the effect that forest practices have on the species and the habitat.