

Project Update: September 2016

In our March 2016 census we counted a total of 262 vinaceous parrots in Argentina, the most we've counted since starting in 2005. The population seems to be increasing or at least stable since we started working with farmers to prevent capture of nestlings. Our field work during the 2015 breeding season revealed that vinaceous parrots overlap in nest niche with multiple taxa of cavity-nesting animals including opossums, bees, toucans, and barn owls. Vinaceous parrots need cavities that are high (>10 m), with large entrances (> 7 cm), but other animals also use these cavities. We've found that the longest-lasting cavities are in the living trunks of tree species with dense wood, but fast growing, low wood density tree species might provide short-term replacement cavities in secondary forests. In preliminary interviews with 10 farmers, all expressed that they remain interested in planting native trees. They perceive that doing so contributes to conservation of native fauna and ecosystem services. We're now back in the field studying cavity nests, delivering seedlings to farmers, and preparing for surveys and outreach with farmers. You can read more news from farmers and watch a video about the 2016 parrot census on our webpage: <http://www.pinoparana.org>



Alberto (white shirt) in November 2015 we visited 10 randomly-selected farmers who participate in our native tree-planting program. Here we are measuring a tree that Alberto (white shirt) planted at the edge of his pasture in 2010.

Vinaceous parrot nestling a few days before fledging from its nest in a very large cavity, 21 m high in the trunk of a Parana Pine.



Kristina monitors the vinaceous parrot nest in the Parana Pine.

