

Project Update: October 2008

Field Surveys

Winter is ending and big number of things happened this year.

Summer season was quite productive, collecting useful Austral Parakeet diet and movement patterns information. Several USA and UK volunteers help me to achieve those tasks. Their contribute in my field work by counting flocks to assess variations on population size during reproductive season and helping me to found 20 active nests for next reproductive season, which is a big amount for this area!

This winter was quite dry, starting closely in last spring. Because of that, austral parakeets (as other forest birds) show important local movements looking for food. This was stronger in the late winter because of great snowstorms on the Andes.

This year we are going to be mainly focalized on reproductive patterns, cavities use and their characteristics as well as habitat use. We will measure them and compare with un-used cavities of several random plots.

Education Program

Education program starts quite successfully in Bariloche city. I visited 3 public and precarious schools, starting with a lecture and in the end giving every child one sticker (that I designed) as an extra material for teachers to continue the conservation program.

This course is supported by Nahuel Huapi National Park and Centro Regional Universitario Bariloche. Also, Lanin National Park Education department and people from Asociacion Aves Patagonicas join this education project by making several lectures in San Martin de los Andes City and around, during spring.

