

de Braziliaanse zaagbek



**Hoe natuurbescherming en avicultuur elkaar
kunnen versterken om een soort te redden**

door Jan Harteman

Braziliaanse zaagbek

Mergus octosetaceus, Vieillot 1817

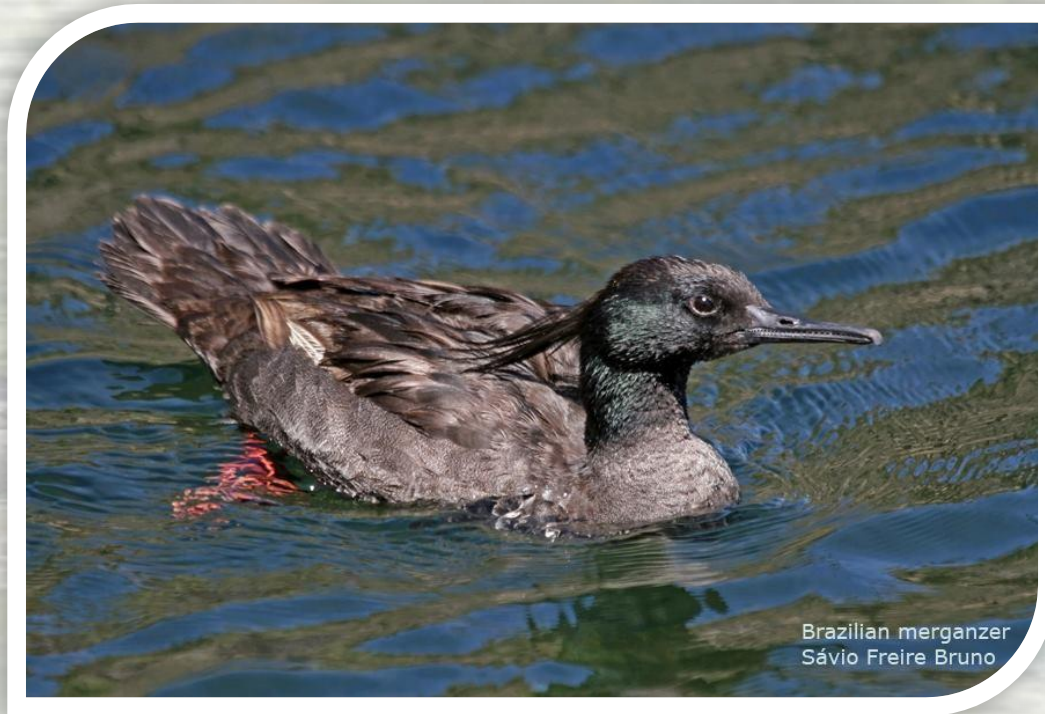


Foto: met dank aan Sávio F. Bruno

Braziliaanse zaagbek

Wat maakt ze bijzonder?



Foto: Sávio F. Bruno



Foto: Sávio F. Bruno

Braziliaanse zaagbek

Verspreiding





Bron: IUCN Red List Map services

THE WATERFOWL OF THE WORLD

Mr Pilling's birds were in perfect condition and extremely tame at the time of our visit. More have been reared the last two years, and pairs of them have since been sent to Dr Ripley, at Litchfield, Connecticut, to the Wildfowl Trust, and to several American Zoos.

Brazilian Merganser

Mergus octosetaceus

Veillot, *Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat.*, 14, 1817, p. 222: Brazil.

Phillips, *Nat. Hist. of the Ducks*, IV, 1926, p. 301. Peters, *Check-List, Birds of the World*, I, 1931, p. 188.

CHARACTERISTICS

The Brazilian Merganser is bigger and has a longer bill than the two preceding species (*albellus*, *cucullatus*) and approximates in shape and proportions the other large species of *Mergus*, particularly the Red-breasted Merganser. But it differs from all in having no cinnamon or reddish brown in the plumage, which is the same for the two sexes at all times of the year. It is entirely black, dark brown, grey and white. Males and females have the head and upper neck black with green reflections; there is a long occipital crest, shorter and often worn-out in the female; upperparts dark greenish brown; a white patch on the wings formed by the white and black secondaries and their coverts; lower neck, breast and sides grey finely vermiculated with hoary white; rest of underparts broadly and irregularly barred brown and white. Iris brown; bill plumbeous black; legs rosy red.

Females and immatures are very little different, only slightly smaller and duller than the male.

Male: wing: 183-188 mm.; tail: 90-100 mm.; culmen: 49-51 mm.; tarsus: 40-42 mm.

Female: wing: 180-184 mm.; culmen: 38-40 mm.

Downy chicks: black above, with white patches on the wing, sides of back and rump; underparts white; a white line from lore to below the eye, and a white spot above. Iris, bill and legs grey.

Eggs: only known from pieces of shells which are cream-coloured (Partridge).

DISTRIBUTION

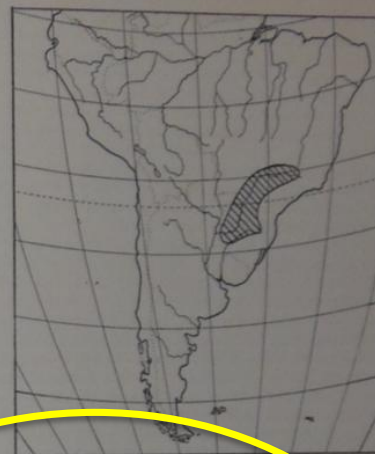
South-eastern Brazil (Minas Geraes, Sao Paulo, Parana, Santa Catarina), Paraguay (streams flowing into the Parana River), and Argentina (Misiones). The centre of distribution is the Alta Parana basin. Resident.

GENERAL HABITS

Up to recent years, the Brazilian Merganser had remained one of the great rarities in ornithological collections. It was even considered to be extinct as no specimens had been

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34. Distribution of *Mergus octosetaceus*.



found since 1922. But the rediscovery of the species in 1948 by Argentinian naturalists and the subsequent important field studies of W. H. Partridge, of the Buenos Aires Museum of Natural History, have completely changed the situation. Mr Partridge has published in the *Auk*, 1956, a most interesting article, parts of which are reproduced here as they constitute about all that is known today of the species:

In October, 1947, an expedition from the Buenos Aires Museum made a short reconnaissance along the Yacuy River, a small tributary of the Iguazu, in Northern Misiones. The party was led by Dr Eduardo del Ponte, then Chief of the Department of Zoology in the Museum.

Although the main object of the expedition was to conduct field research on medical entomology, a small collection of birds was made with the assistance of Senor Alberto A. Aiello. Among these birds was a new specimen of the Brazilian Merganser. The reappearance of this species aroused much interest among ornithologists in Buenos Aires. Senor Andres G. Gai, commissioned by the Buenos Aires Museum, left for Misiones in April, 1948. After five months of searching along the Arroyo Aguaray-guazu and Arroyo Yaguarai (not to be confused with Rio Uruguay), he collected eight additional specimens of the Brazilian Merganser.

Braziliaanse zaagbek

Kritisch met uitsterven bedreigd

Historie:

- 2009 – Critically Endangered
- 2008 – Critically Endangered
- 2006 – Critically Endangered
- 2004 – Critically Endangered
- 2000 – Critically Endangered
- 1996 – Critically Endangered
- 1994 – Critically Endangered

www.iucnredlist.org



Jalapão State Park, Tocantins

- Rio Novo
- 2007-2008: 3 broedparen
- 2009-2010: 13 dieren



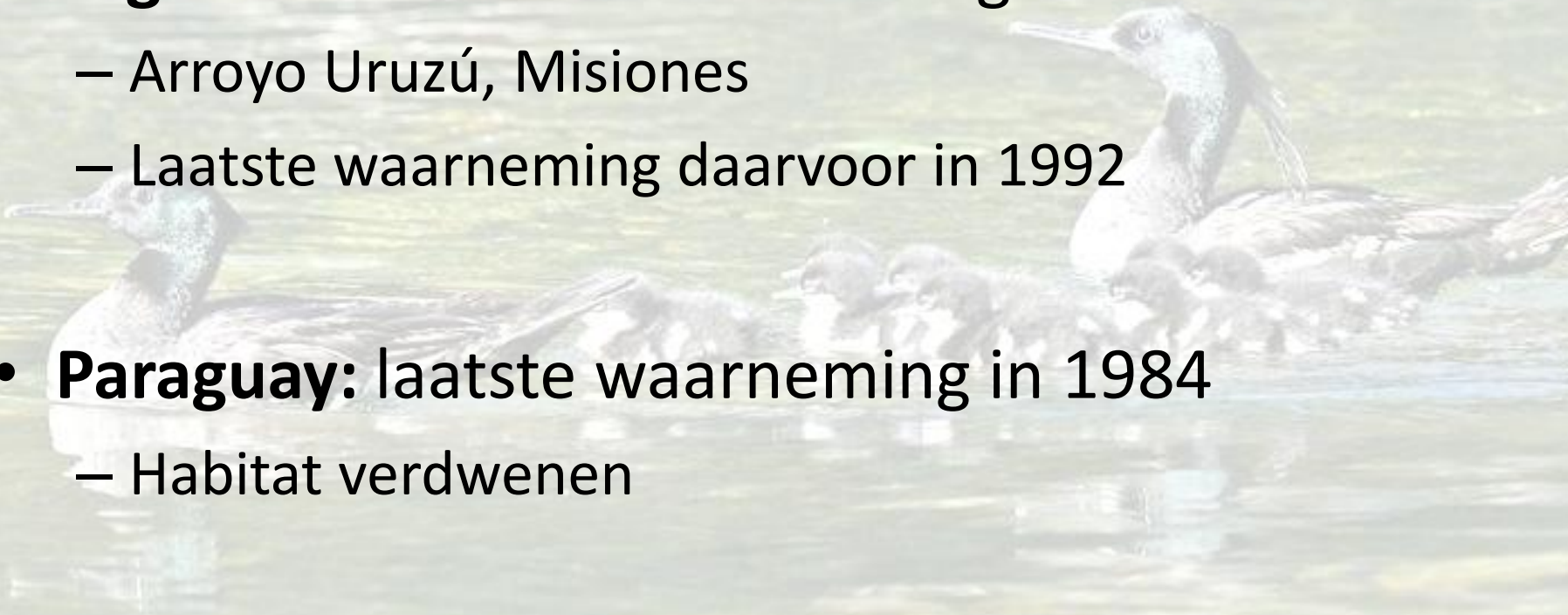
Serra da Canastra, Minas Gerais

- São Francisco rivier
- 2002: 81 dieren geteld
- 2006: 47 dieren geteld
- Hoogste “concentratie”



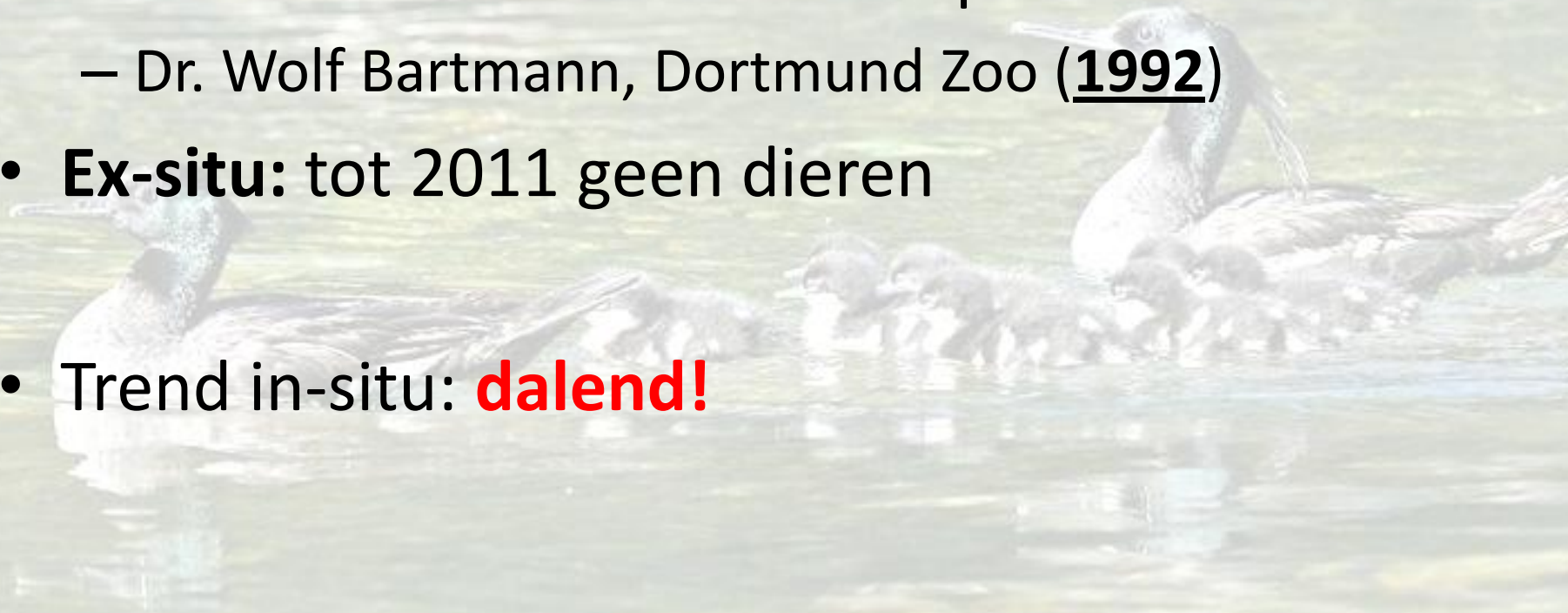
Andere populaties

- **Argentinië:** laatste waarneming in 2002
 - Arroyo Uruzú, Misiones
 - Laatste waarneming daarvoor in 1992
- **Paraguay:** laatste waarneming in 1984
 - Habitat verdwenen



Geschatte aantallen

- **In-situ:** Minder dan 250 exemplaren?!
 - Dr. Wolf Bartmann, Dortmund Zoo (**1992**)
- **Ex-situ:** tot 2011 geen dieren
- Trend in-situ: **dalend!**



Bedreigingen

- Bosbouw/ landbouw
- Aanleg infrastructuur (erosie en vervuiling)
- Jacht
- Diamantwinning (erosie en vervuiling)
 - Sinds 1997 verboden
- Bosbranden (2003)
 - 9500 hectare bos verbrand
- Competitie met andere soorten

**PARQUE NACIONAL
DA SERRA DA CANASTRA**
~ PORTARIA ~





Brazil



Serra da Canastra



Dados da Hidrografia do Rio São Francisco

Área: 638.323 km²
Municípios: 504
Afluentes: 80 rios perenes e
População: acima de 13 milhões
Cobertura vegetal predominante:
Fragmentos de Florestas, Pântanos,
Mangues e Vegetação Litorânea
Trechos navegáveis: 1.234 km
Petrobrás/Juazeiro e 204 km
Principais cidades: Região Metropolitana de
Belo Horizonte, Montes Claros, Juazeiro,
Bom Jesus da Lapa, Petrolina, Juazeiro,
e Propriá
Regiões fisiográficas: Alto, Médio e Baixo
São Francisco
Vazão média de longo período na foz:
Extensão do rio: 2.863 Km

Foto: Robert Kooij wijst Serra da Canastra aan op de kaart



Nationaal park: 1983,80 km²
Opgericht in 1972

- Manenwolf
- Reuzengordeldier
- Reuzenmierener
- Pampahert
- Braziliaanse zaagbek







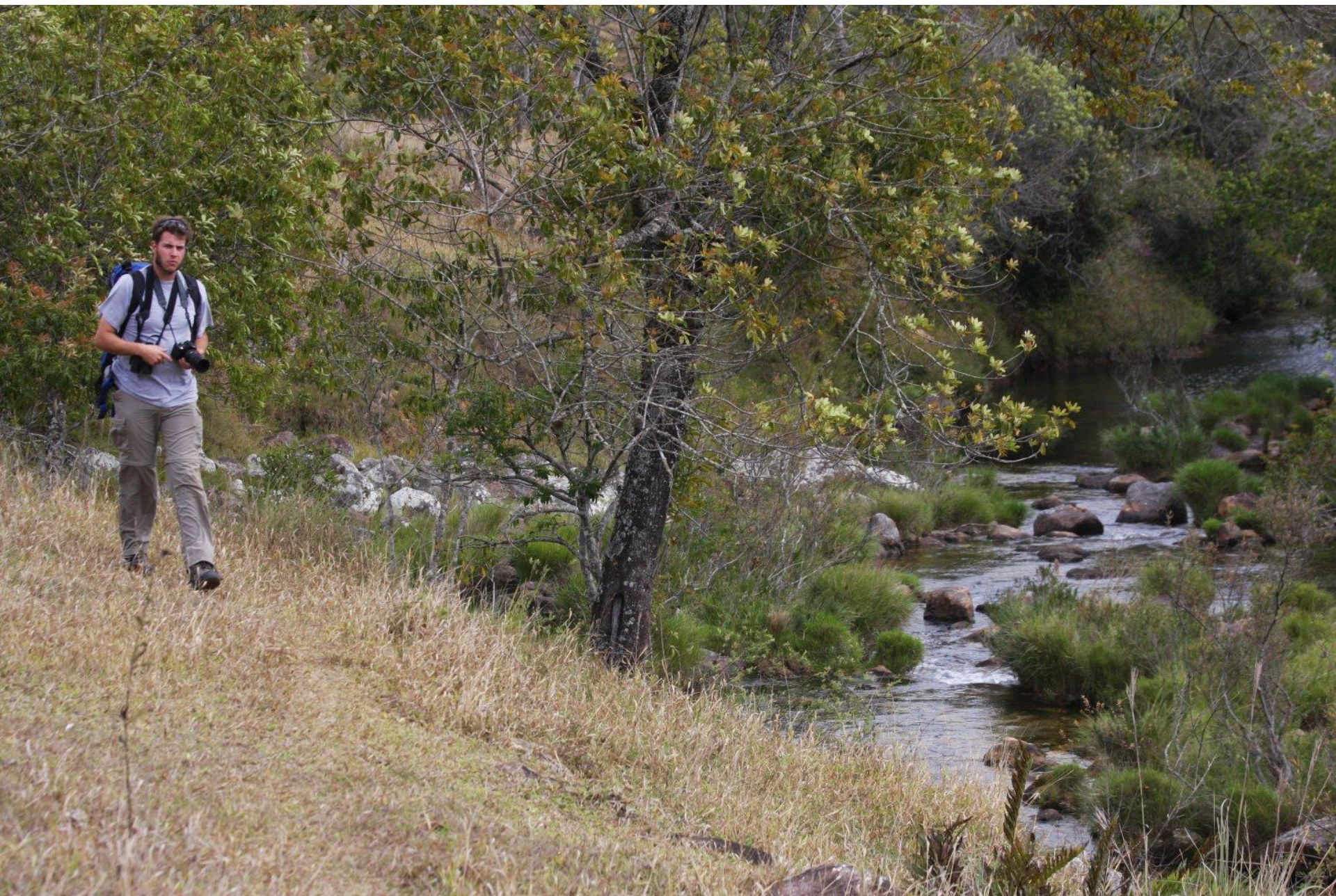
Pampahert, *Ootaceros bezoarticus*. Foto: J. Harteman



Rivier São Francisco. Foto: J. Harteman



...Zijriviertje 1...



...Zijriviertje 2...



Waar gaan we nu zoeken?

Waterval Casca D'Anta. Verval: 186 meter





Foto: J. Harteman





Foto: J. Harteman



Foto: J. Harteman



Foto: J. Harteman

Actieplan?!

- Luís Fábio Silveira & Wolf D. Bartmann (2001)
 - Natural history and conservation of Brazilian Merganser *Mergus octosetaceus* at Serra da Canastra National Park
- Baz Hughes et. al. (2006)
 - Action plan for the conservation of the Brazilian Merganser *Mergus octosetaceus*. Brasília: Ibama. (Threatened Species Series, 3).

Dus: kweken in gevangenschap?!

THE WATERFOWL OF THE WORLD

"kilometre 10" in the first week of August. While exploring the Urugua-i River near our camp in August, a pair of Mergansers with no young was located. After watching their movements for several days, I discovered their nest on August 24, when the female flew to it from the water. This pair of Mergansers was apparently one month late in breeding according to all the previous information.

The nest was located in the hollow limb of a live tree known locally as "Yvyra pyta" (*Peltophorum dubium*; Family *Leguminosae*) at a height of about 25 metres above water level. The tree was growing on the shore, and the branch with the nest-hole, which faced the water, was visible from the river. The entrance hole was 35 by 15 centimetres and the nest-cavity was 3 metres deep. A great deal of fine, rotten wood was removed from the bottom of the cavity after the young had left. No other material was found in the cavity except for some pieces of egg shell, which were of a light cream colour.

I followed the movements of the Mergansers for seven days from a blind built on the river shore under the tree in which the nest was located. Incubation was performed only by the female. While she was at the nest the male was always in the river; he spent most of his time perching on a group of stones emerging from the water in front of the nest site. While resting, he would lie on the stones with his head under one wing, apparently sleeping. At the slightest noise he would rise up and look around; on finding that everything was quiet, he would resume resting. At other times he would feed in the shallow water near the emergent stones.

The female came out of the nest to feed only once a day. Every morning between 8.30 and 9.00 a.m. she flew out of the nest to the river, giving a few loud calls. The male answered the calls while flying towards her; both then flew together to their feeding grounds along the rapids. They sometimes flew upstream and at other times downstream as the nest was located half way between two rapids. They never fed together in front of the nest. They stayed from an hour to an hour and a half on the feeding grounds. On returning to the nesting area they uttered loud cries before alighting on the water. Next they swam towards the stones, and after climbing on them, stayed there for about 10 or 20 minutes, drying their plumage. Leaving the stones, they swam towards the middle of the river and from there flew to the nest. The male always flew with the female to about three or four metres from the entrance of the nest; as the female went in, he flew back to the river. Once on the water, he utters a long cry, sometimes two, looking towards the nest. The male passed the rest of the day near the nest.

On August 27, after both birds had returned from the feeding grounds and before the female had flown to the nest, they copulated. Having dried their feathers while perched on the stones, they returned to the water and began to bathe. Suddenly the female partially submerged herself — her head, neck, body and tail forming a straight line at water level. She remained motionless in that position for a few seconds until the male mounted her, holding her short crest with his bill. When they copulated both birds were completely submerged. On completion of the mating act the female uttered a long cry. Both birds bathed, perched on the stones drying their plumage, and then the female flew to the nest.

The holding of the female's crest by the male during copulation causes considerable wear; many of its feathers may be broken off near their bases so that some of the females

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appear crestless. At other times of the year the crest of the female is only slightly shorter than that of the male.

On August 28 and 29, I did not see the female leave the nest, although I was at the blind well before the usual feeding time. The male was alone on the river. On August 30 the female came out to feed, but the pair spent only half an hour on the feeding grounds. When they came back they were frightened; before the female went in they flew past in front of the nest twice giving loud cries. When the female went to the nest, the male uttered three long cries. That same afternoon the young left the nest. Unfortunately, not having been at the blind when this occurred, I failed to see how the young Mergansers reached the water from the nest. The next day, August 31, four downy young were found on the river with their parents.

Apparently the Brazilian Merganser's worst enemy is the black and white Crested Eagle (*Spizaetus melanoleucus*). It is not persecuted by man as it is hard to locate and its flesh is unpalatable.

I was lucky enough to observe a Brazilian Merganser on the Iguassu River, swimming close above the great falls, on April 29, 1956.

CAPTIVITY

It has never been kept in Europe or North America. The few specimens captured alive did not feed nor survive long. But it should not be more difficult to keep than other Mergansers.

Auckland Islands Merganser

Mergus australis

Hombroon and Jacquinot, *Ann. Soc. Nat. Zool.*, (2), 16, 1841, p. 320: The Auckland Islands.

Phillips, *Nat. Hist. of the Ducks*, IV, 1926, p. 299. Peters, *Check-List, Birds of the World*, 1, 1931, p. 188.

CHARACTERISTICS

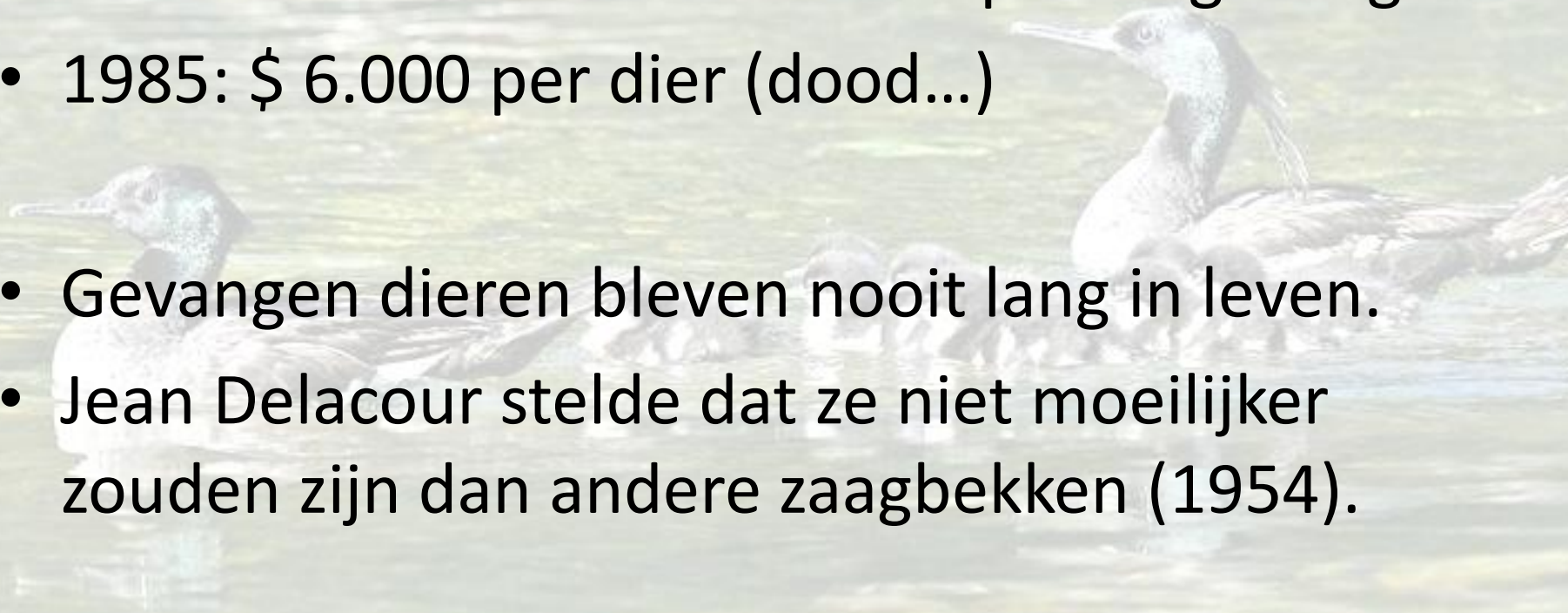
This very rare austral species resembles the female Goosander, but is smaller and much darker: head and neck dark reddish brown, the chin and throat rather lighter; upperparts dark grey; wing dark grey, the primaries and secondaries black, the secondaries and coverts with white patches much as in other Mergansers; underparts grey, the feathers with pale margins, the abdomen mottled grey and white. In the shape of the bill, however, it is nearer the Goosander. Iris brown; bill black and orange; legs orange, the webs dusky.

Both sexes are alike in colour and there is no eclipse plumage in the male. Females merely smaller.

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De zaagbek in avicultuur

- 1947 – 1954: 26 levende exemplaren gevangen
- 1985: \$ 6.000 per dier (dood...)
- Gevangen dieren bleven nooit lang in leven.
- Jean Delacour stelde dat ze niet moeilijker zouden zijn dan andere zaagbekken (1954).





Foto's: J. Harteman

De zaagbek in avicultuur

- 1956: Partridge
- 1985: Johnson & Chebez
- 2011: ...



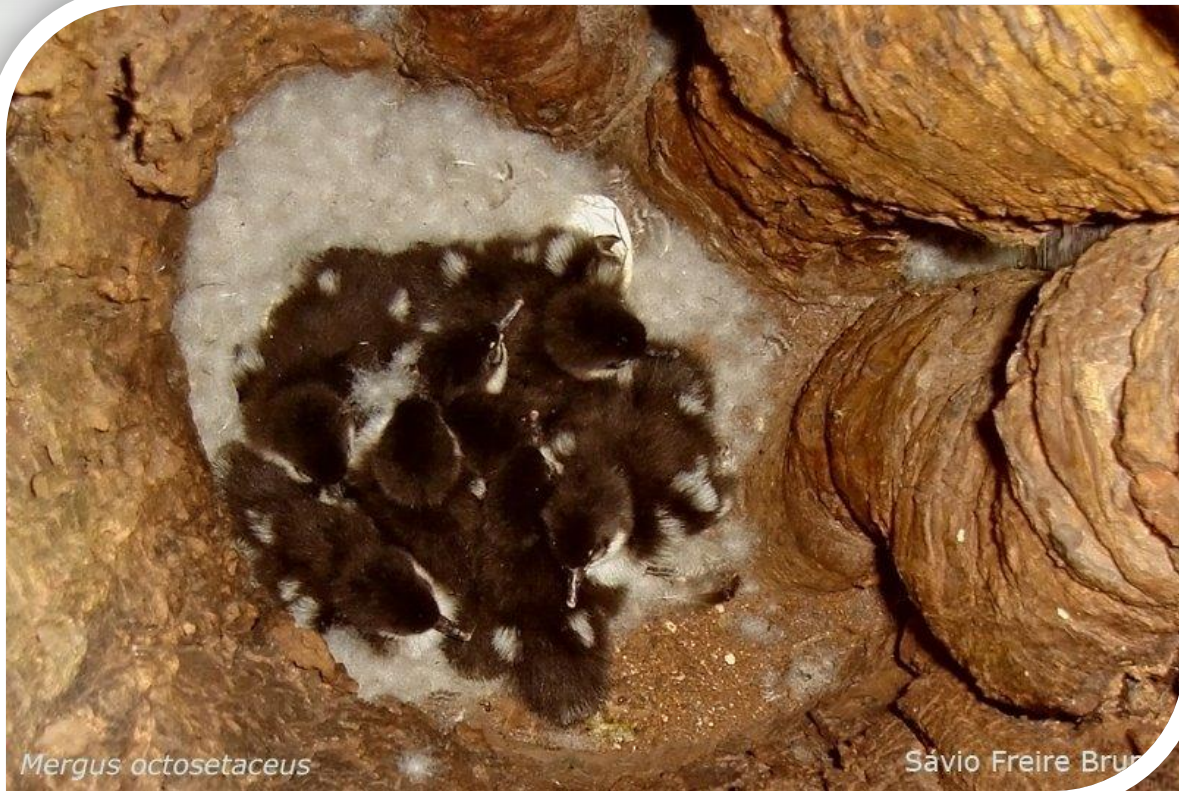




Foto: Robert Kooij (2011)



Foto: Robert Kooij (2011)



Mergus octosetaceus

Sávio Freire Bruns



Recovery project

- Overheid: IBAMA (Ministerie van Milieu)
- Toezicht en monitoring: Terra Brasilis
- Expertise:
 - Prof. Luís Fabio Silveira, São Paulo University
 - Mike Lubbock, Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Park)
 - Robert Kooij, Criadouro Poços de Caldas)
- Faciliteiten in Poços de Caldas

Het “Brazilian merganser recovery project”



Een paar Braziliaanse zaagbekken met kuikens (foto: Robert Kooy)

Inleiding

De Braziliaanse zaagbek (*Mergus octosetaceus*) is één van de tien meest bedreigde watervogelsoorten ter wereld! De totale populatie wordt op 50 à 250 vogels geschat en ze neemt nog af.

Zo'n elf jaar geleden, in 2000, werd door Wolf Bartmann een 'workshop' georganiseerd waar door experts van Argentinië, Brazilië, Paraguay, Europa en de Verenigde Staten "The Brazilian merganser recovery project" werd opgesteld. In 2003 werd dan samen met de Braziliaanse autoriteiten een actieplan ontworpen om de Braziliaanse zaagbek voor uitsterven te behoeden. Later gingen er stemmen op om een "Captive Breeding Program" in Brazilië op te starten. Omdat Braziliaanse zaagbekken in de natuur erg schuw zijn, oordeelde men dat hun gedrag beter bestudeerd zou kunnen worden in beschermd milieu. In de natuur konden eieren verzameld worden; die konden in een kweekcentrum kunstmatig uitgebroed worden en de kuikens konden er handmatig grootgebracht worden. Later zouden gekweekte vogels dan in een geschikt leefgebied uitgezet kunnen worden.

De vogelkwekerij van Dr. Moacyr 'Criadouro Poços de Caldas', die zich in de staat Minas Gerais (Brazilië) bevindt, werd geschikt geacht voor zo'n kweekprogramma. De familie Kooy uit Nederland werkt al enkele jaren samen met Dr. Moacyr. Onder hun impuls werden er nieuwe vogelverblijven ingericht, een broedlokaal gebouwd, broedmachines en opkweekbakken geïnstalleerd, opkweekgedeeltes voor duikeenden (verbonden met openluchtbasins) geconstrueerd, voedingsschema's aangepast, personeel bijgeschoold, e.d. Misschien zou dankzij de kennis en de faciliteiten van Dr. Moacyr en de familie Kooy de Braziliaanse zaagbek voor uitsterven behoed kunnen worden.

De toestemming van de bevoegde instanties voor zo'n "Captive Breeding Program" liet echter vrij lang op zich wachten. Maar dit jaar was het eindelijk zo ver! Over hoe alles hierbij in zijn werk ging, kan niemand beter dan Robert Kooy zelf ons vertellen.

Liliane De Boeck-Pauchet

Eindelijk is het zover!

Tekst en foto's: Robert Kooy (P. Kooy & Sons vof "Waterfowl breeding farm")

Het "Captive Breeding Program" van de Braziliaanse zaagbek ging dit jaar van start. Doel van dit project is om in beschermd milieu sterke jongen te kweken en een sterk bestand op te bouwen zodat deze zaagbekken nadien uitgezet kunnen worden in verschillende gebieden waar ze voorheen voorkwamen.

Dit jaar kregen we toestemming van de Braziliaanse milieu-organisatie "IBAMA" om onder toezicht van het Braziliaanse instituut "Terra Brasilis" eieren te rapen van de Braziliaanse zaagbek. Samen met Mike Lubbock van Sylvan Heights Waterfowl park gingen we 3 juli op pad naar Serra da Canastra (het gebied waar Terra Brasilis al jaren deze vogels monitort) om nesten te vinden van deze uiterst zeldzame eend.

Na een zoektocht van tien dagen vonden we vier nesten. In twee nesten lagen enkel nog lege doppen! De eieren waren waarschijnlijk leeg gevreten door een Toko-toekan. Die vogels komen talrijk in dit gebied voor en staan bekend om hun roofgedrag.

In het derde nest, dat door Terra Brasilis al jaren gemonitord wordt, waren de kuikens reeds aan het uitkomen. Wij voelden ons gelukkig om dit 'spektakel' te mogen meemaken.

De ingang van het vierde nest bevond zich 20 m boven het wa-



Braziliaanse zaagbek (foto: Sávio Frere Bruno)



Foto: Robert Kooij (2011)



Foto: Robert Kooij (2011)



Foto: Robert Kooij (2011)



Foto: Robert Kooij (2011)



Foto: Robert Kooij (2011)



Foto: Robert Kooij (2011)







En over een aantal jaren?

Brazilian merganser
Sávio Freire Bruno



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