

Project Update: March 2006

Scientific monitoring of the Red-fronted macaw has continued in this time period along with environmental education activities. 5,000 native trees were planted in efforts to help restore the Red-fronted macaw's natural habitat. These activities have helped raise awareness with local farmers of how their agricultural activities have impacted the macaws.

When the macaws have the native fruits to eat from the trees, they will limit attacks on local peanut crops. Veronica Pasquieri, biologist, participated in the 1st Bolivian Congress on Ecology presenting a brief summary of the project entitled, "Study and Conservation of the Red-fronted Macaw (*Ara rubrogenys*) in the Caine River" to help raise awareness of what is being done to protect this specie in Bolivia.

Observation of species

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(Translation to English)

The Red-Fronted Macaw is very beautiful for its colours, which represent our country, but many of us are killing them without realizing that many of them in this place are disappearing little by little. We are killing them because they come with their whole group to the peanut crops. Many of them die and some of them escape to another place because they are scared away by the sounds of the shotgun, rifle, or gun.

There are no great quantities of macaws anymore in this place; maybe there would have been thousands of them or more in this place. Maybe it would have been the most beautiful valley because in them you could see the colours of our country. The people that would come from other countries would see the caverns and Umajalanta (famous cavern). Before seeing the caverns and the dinosaur tracks, passing through this valley they could see the colours of the flag of Bolivia: red, yellow and green. Because of this we should take care of every living thing, but above all, a bird that carries the three colours of our beloved country.