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Monitored release of Lear's macaw back to the wild (*Anodorhynchus leari*, Aves: Psittacidae) in Bahia, Brazil

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Releasing captive species is an important tool for populations and species management. This work aims to explore techniques and evaluate the rehabilitation process and release of two captive indigo macaws using radio-tracking techniques as tool for monitoring releasing success and obtaining technical background for future efforts regarding strategies for its management and conservation. These specimens were rescued from the field and then exposed to a pre-release training protocol. One macaw had the transmitter applied to the tail (*tail mount*) and the other to the neck (radio-collar). The reception system used was a unidirectional reception YAGI type antenna and a radio-receptor Rx-81 model. This monitored macaw presented a highly social behavior during the first days after release, flying with wild flocks and coming back to the enclosure afterwards. Flights were gradually becoming longer and to further distances. At the 10th day of post-release monitoring was registered at a 7 km distance from the enclosure area. The monitoring process was performed during 34 days, after this period the bird was monitored only by binoculars and telescope, confirming the releasing success. It is very important to realize the peculiarities of this species and limitations associated with the methods. Therefore, we consider the radio-telemetry a viable and economical option due to the excellent results that it can provide. Considering the conservation status of *A. leari* and the permanent threat of illegal capture for animal trade, it is important to test and evaluate actions that replace captive birds back to the wild.