

## Brazilian Merganser (*Mergus octosetaceus*)

Update November 2019



*Picture 1 – Female 2011 from Serra da Canastra and male 2014 from Patrocínio raising 2 youngsters (sex unknown)*

This year we had a very strange breeding season!

It was strange because it started very early this year and it is not finished yet!

Normally their breeding season is from May until August but this year we had the first eggs in April and at this moment we still have one female sitting on eggs.

The first eggs were unfertile this year as well for the eggs of the females that laid for their first time!

We believe that the males didn't have time to prepare them self, which is not uncommon in waterfowl.

The results until now for this year are a total of five youngsters, two with the parents (picture 1) and three hand raised (picture 4)



*Picture 2 – Taken in November the 24th*



*Picture 3 - Taken on October 8th, birds raised by the parents*

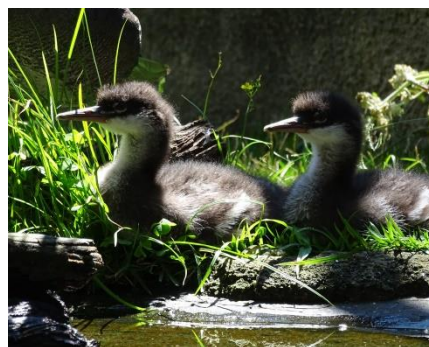


Picture 4 - Taken on September 16th, hand raised birds

So today we have a total of 30 birds (13.14.3) and one female sitting on eggs (Picture 2)!  
With almost all the females laying eggs it is a very promising and positive signal for next year!



15 days



30 days



45 days

Picture 5 – Development of the birds raised by the parents

## Aviaries

At the moment we have 12 breeding aviaries for our Mergansers (Pictures 6 and 7), where we keep 12 pairs and one extra male.

Each aviary has around 70m<sup>2</sup>



*Picture 6 and 7 – Complex of aviaries*

Here below you see the security aisle of the aviaries, on both sides we have aviaries!



*Picture 8 – Security aisle*

Below you can see some of our aviaries:



*Picture 9 – Aviary*



*Picture 10 – Aviary*



Picture 11 – Aviary



Picture 12 – Aviary



Picture 13 – Aviary

Very soon another four aviaries will be necessary to separate our young birds from this year

Together with ICMBio (The institute of conservation with the ministry of Environment) and MZUSP (university of Sao Paulo) we are looking for a releasing area here in the State Sao Paulo. For the releasing program we will need beside our secure breeding group of ten pairs, at least another 30 birds.

The Brazilian Merganser and Zooparque would like to thank you again for your great support of this extremely endangered waterfowl.

Because if you we are increases our numbers of mergansers for the releasing program.



**Thank you!**