

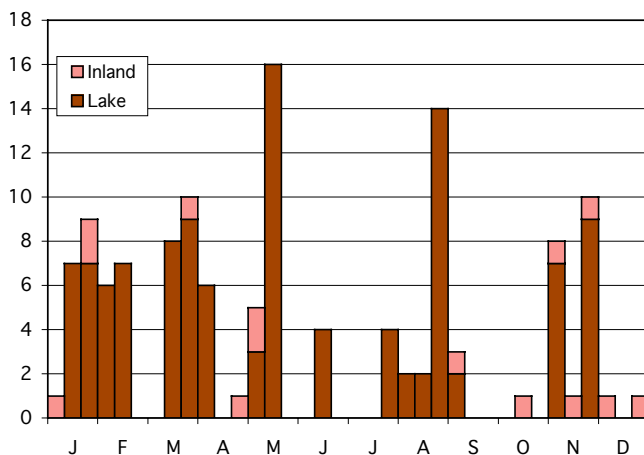
Monk Parakeet

Myiopsitta monachus

Historical Information

First Published Record: This South American species first appeared in Indiana as an exotic bird, which clouds the issue of first occurrence, as these individuals were not considered part of the state avifauna. In 1999 the Illinois Committee accepted a long established Chicago population as a viable part of that state's avifauna. Wanderers from the Chicago population occasionally stray into northwest Indiana; consequently, in 2003 the Indiana Bird Records Committee reviewed the Illinois decision, and accepted a record photographed by J.J. McCoy 7 May 2002 in Hammond. This added Monk Parakeet to the state check list (Gorney 2004).

Keller et al. (1979) referred to this species as exotic. Mumford and Keller (1984) described the Monk Parakeet as an "escaped exotic."



Status

Physical Evidence: No specimens from Indiana are known to exist (S.F. Jackson unpublished list). Black and white Monk Parakeet photos appear in Brock (2002) and Marsh (2006).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
No known specimens				0
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	7	n	8
Central Tier	n	n	n	n
Southern Tier	9	10	n	9
Entire State	9	7	n	8

Current Status

If all reports over the past 20 years are considered, the Monk Parakeet is locally Rare (7). Based solely on 2002, or later records, it is Occasional (9).

Occurrence

According to Mumford and Keller (1984) Indiana's first Monk Parakeet was reported in Muncie in September 1969 by Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Bibler. They also listed this species as having been seen in four other counties. The recent expansion of Monk Parakeets from Chicago into northwestern Indiana is summarized in Marsh (2006).

Breeding

Although early nests were constructed in Muncie during winter 1969-70, in Indianapolis in 1980, and in Whiting Park (Lake County) in 1981 (Mumford and Keller 1984), there were no reports of successful breeding until 2005. On 27 May 2005 a large nest in Hammond fell, allowing examination of its contents. Inside the nest were five nestlings and one unhatched egg (Marsh 2006). This article also includes nest photographs.

Monk Parakeet Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
12	24-Aug-2005	Highland	Michael Topp	INB
10	14-May-2005	Hammond	C.A. Marsh	INB
9	24-Nov-2002	Hammond	R.L. Hedge	INB
9	24-Mar-2003	Hammond	C.A. Marsh	IAQ
8	19-Mar-2005	Hammond	J.A. Haw	INB
All remaining reports consisted of singletons.				

References Cited

Brock, K.J. (2002) Middlewestern Prairie Region, Spring Migration 2002, *N. Am. Birds* 56:310-314.

Gorney, D. (2004) Report of the Indiana Bird Records Committee-2003, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 82:2-18.

Keller, C.E., S.A. Keller, and T.C. Keller (1979) *Indiana Birds and Their Haunts*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 214 pp.

Marsh, C.A. (2006) Monk Parakeet: First State Breeding Records and Expansion into Northwest Indiana, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 84:1-6.

Mumford, R.E. and C.E. Keller (1984) *The Birds of Indiana*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 376 pp.