

Myiopsitta monachus

Monk Parakeet

Other common names: grey-breasted parakeet, Quaker parakeet



Psittacidae, the true parrot family



Diagnostic Characteristics

- Small parrot measuring 12 inches in length having a wingspan of 21 inches
- Mostly green with a gray to off-white head, throat, and breast; bright yellow abdomen with an orange-yellow beak, and blueish flight wings
- Males are slightly larger than females with identical coloring
- Prefer to travel in flocks

Background

- Native to South America; introduced as an exotic pet
- Inhabits woodlands, farmlands, orchards, and cultivated forests in native ranges
- Only parrot that builds a nest; prefers nest site at 30 feet above ground
- Communal nest builders; offspring often build onto an existing nest making large, bulky masses that create maintenance and fire hazards on communication and electrical utility towers
- Considered a significant agricultural pest to field crops and orchards in its native range

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