

NAME OF SPECIES: Myiopsitta monachus	
Synonyms: Psittacus monachus	
Common Name: Monk parrot, monk parakeet, Quaker parakeet, grey-breasted parakeet, grey-headed parakeet.	
A. CURRENT STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION	
I. In Wisconsin?	1. YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	2. <u>Abundance:</u>
	3. <u>Geographic Range:</u> Found just south of Wisconsin in greater Chicago, Illinois (2).
	4. <u>Habitat Invaded:</u> Disturbed Areas <input type="checkbox"/> Undisturbed Areas <input type="checkbox"/>
	5. <u>Historical Status and Rate of Spread in Wisconsin:</u>
	6. <u>Proportion of potential range occupied:</u>
	7. <u>Survival and Reproduction:</u> This species can survive and flourish in cold climates (2).
II. Invasive in Similar Climate Zones	1. YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Where (include trends):</u> This species is found in some States scattered throughout the U.S.-the closest State to Wisconsin is Illinois (2). This species is increasing exponentially (2).
III. Invasive in Similar Habitat Types	1. Upland <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland <input type="checkbox"/> Dune <input type="checkbox"/> Prairie <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic <input type="checkbox"/> Forest <input type="checkbox"/> Grassland <input type="checkbox"/> Bog <input type="checkbox"/> Fen <input type="checkbox"/> Swamp <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh <input type="checkbox"/> Lake <input type="checkbox"/> Stream <input type="checkbox"/> Other: This species is mainly found in urban and suburban areas (2, 5).
IV. Habitat Affected	1. <u>Where does this invasive resided:</u> Edge species <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interior species <input type="checkbox"/>
	2. <u>Conservation significance of threatened habitats:</u> None
V. Native Habitat	1. <u>List countries and native habitat types:</u> South America. They are found in open areas, oak savannas, scrub forests, and palm groves (4, 12).
VI. Legal Classification	1. <u>Listed by government entities?</u> This species is listed as a non-game, unprotected species.
	2. <u>Illegal to sell?</u> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notes: In about 12 states monk parrots are illegal to own or sell because they are seen as agriculture pests (1). Where this species can be sold, they are sold for \$50-160/bird (1). Some estimates are as high as \$300 for certain monk parrots (13).
B. ESTABLISHMENT POTENTIAL AND LIFE HISTORY TRAITS	
I. Life History	1. <u>Type of Animal:</u> Mammal <input type="checkbox"/> Bird <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reptile <input type="checkbox"/> Amphibian <input type="checkbox"/> Fish <input type="checkbox"/>
	2. <u>Age of Maturity or time to self sufficiency:</u> Monk parrots breed at the age of 2 years. Monk parrots live in large colonies, with multiple birds occupying a single stick nest (12).
	3. <u>Gestation Period:</u> One estimate for incubation was 20 days (4). Another estimate for incubation time ranged from 26-31 days (6).
	4. <u>Mating System:</u> Polygamous <input type="checkbox"/> polygynandrous <input type="checkbox"/> polyandrous <input type="checkbox"/> Monogamous <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	<p><u>Notes:</u> (11).</p> <p>5. <u>Breeding/ Breeding period:</u> This species lays 4-6 eggs per clutch (8), sometimes up to 8 eggs per clutch (6) with as many as 6 clutches/year (6, 8). In the northern ranges, such as Connecticut, only one brood may be produced (9). The breeding season is from July- November (6). Adults provide crop milk for the young (9).</p> <p>6. <u>Hybridization potential:</u> Hybridization is rare in monk parrots (10).</p>
II. Climate	<p>1. <u>Climate restrictions:</u> This species is a hardy species and can withstand colder climates (2, 14). No climate restrictions</p> <p>2. <u>Effects of potential climate change:</u> Since this species can live with humans and flourish around human activity, climate change should not adversely affect this species.</p>
III. Dispersal Potential	<p>1. <u>Pathways - Please check all that apply:</u></p> <p><u>Unintentional:</u> Bird <input type="checkbox"/> Animal <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicles/Human X Wind <input type="checkbox"/> Water <input type="checkbox"/> Other:</p> <p><u>Intentional:</u> Ornamental X Forage/Erosion control <input type="checkbox"/> Medicine/Food: Recreational <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Widely distributed in the pet trade.</p> <p>2. <u>Distinguishing characteristics that aid in its survival and/or inhibit its control:</u> This species can survive in cold weather and live around humans.</p>
IV. Ability to go Undetected	<p>1. HIGH <input type="checkbox"/> MEDIUM <input type="checkbox"/> LOW X These birds are very loud. Communal nests are easily observed.</p>
C. DAMAGE POTENTIAL	
I. Competitive Ability	<p>1. <u>Presence of Natural Enemies:</u> The monk parrot's native predators are snakes and monkeys (9). Species found in the U.S. that may predate monk parrots are cats, opossums, raccoons, and birds of prey (9).</p> <p>2. <u>Competition with native species:</u> There have been reports of this species fighting with blue jays, American robins, and house sparrows, but competition is understudied (5). If this bird continues to multiply it could become a serious competitor (5). A study done in 1974 stated that monk parrots were observed killing several blue jays and an American robin (8). There is no "solid" evidence stating that this species is affecting other birds (12). This species will not compete for nest sites with cavity nesting birds because it builds its nest out of twigs, like the Carolina parakeet (13). This species may fill the niche of the extinct Carolina parakeet (13). The spread of Newcastle disease is a big concern for monk parrots (12, 13). This species has been known to share nest with small mammals and other birds (13).</p> <p>2. <u>Rate of Spread:</u> -changes in relative dominance over time: -change in acreage over time: HIGH(1-3 yrs) X MEDIUM (4-6 yrs) <input type="checkbox"/> LOW (7-10 yrs) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><u>Notes:</u> This species is increasing exponentially (2). One study stated that their population will double in 4.8 years and grow by</p>

	an order of 14 in 10 years (7). They have characteristics that facilitate rapid population growth including an omnivorous diet, an ability to adapt to a variety of habitats, and a large reproductive output (14).
II. Environmental Effects	<p>1. <u>Alteration of ecosystem/community composition?</u> YES NO UNKNOWN Notes: This species can eat many grains and fruits, potentially effecting community composition. No studies have been conducted on the impacts that this bird can have on communities. Since this species is found mainly in urban and suburban areas, they may not effect the community more than it already has been affected by humans.</p> <p>2. <u>Alteration of ecosystem/community structure?</u> YES NO UNKNOWN Notes: This species can eat many grains and fruits, potentially effecting community structure. No studies have been conducted on the impacts that this bird can have on communities. Since this species is found mainly in urban and suburban areas, they may not effect the community more than it already has been affected by humans.</p> <p>3. <u>Alteration of ecosystem/community functions and processes?</u> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO X Notes:</p> <p>4. <u>Exhibit Parasitism?</u> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO X Notes:</p>
D. SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS	
I. Positive aspects of the species to the economy/society:	Notes: This species is important in the pet trade. It is among the 10 parrots used as speaking parrots (5). This species is commonly sold for \$50-300/bird (1).
II. Potential Socio-Economic Effects of Requiring Controls: Positive: Negative:	Notes: There will be a financial loss in the pet trade if controls are required. This species is known to be a crop pest in its native land, and there is a fear that it will be a crop and/or orchard pest here (1, 4, 5, 14).
III. Direct and Indirect Socio-Economic Effects of the Animal :	Notes: This species could potentially cause huge losses of money due to crop/fruit damage or implementation of damage prevention techniques. In Argentina monk parrots casue 2-15% of the annual crop losses, and in some years they can cause up to 45% of the crop losses (13). The gregarious nature of monk parrots coupled with their loud squawking can lead to nuisance noise pollution (8).
IV. Increased Costs to Sectors Caused by the Animal:	Notes: A potential costs to agriculture damage. Their large communal nest can impact overhead utility lines.
V. Effects on Human Health:	Notes: This species can transmit a viral disease, psittacosis, through feces which can effect humans (8).
VI. Potential Socio-Economic Effects of Restricting Use:	Positive: Eliminating this species may stop a potential agricultural pest. Utility companies will experience decreased maintenance of overhead lines, poles, transformers caused by monk parrot nests. Negative: Pet trade will lose money from decreased sales, and people will be deprived of owning a popular pet.

E. CONTROL AND PREVENTION

I. Costs of Prevention (please be as specific as possible):	Notes: It would be costly to remove all/ every bird but could be an option. It is also hard to explain the cost of removing these birds because there is not enough information about how this species is causing harm in the U.S. (13). These species could be live-trapped, tagged, and sold at market prices (13). This would not cost much money, and might even generate revenue. The birds could be marked and identified, so if they were released back into the wild, a fine could be applied to the person that released the bird(s).
II. Responsiveness to prevention efforts:	Notes: Trapping is an effective way to capture this bird. Lethal means are not accepted by the public (13). Citizen groups have filed petitions to stop the killing of these birds in Connecticut (3).
III. Effective Control tactics:	Mechanical <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological <input type="checkbox"/> Chemical <input type="checkbox"/> Times and uses: Whenever
IV. Minimum Effort:	Notes: Set live-traps to capture birds.
V. Costs of Control:	Notes: Could generate revenue if captured birds are sold.
VI. Cost of prevention or control vs. Cost of allowing invasion to occur:	Notes: This species may or may not be an agricultural pest, but if numbers expanded they could be. This species should be monitored and kept in checked. If unchecked this species has the potential of causing great harm to our existing ecosystem. This species is a popular pet, trapping and reselling of this species maybe a good way to get rid of this species from the wild while not costing much money.
VII. Non-Target Effects of Control:	Notes: If this species was caught and sold, but there was no way to keep track of the bird, it could be released again without consequences. If this occurred there would be no reason to continue removal efforts because the problem of releasing birds would not be solved. Non-target bird caught in live traps could be released alive.
VIII. Efficacy of monitoring:	Notes: The breeding bird survey and Christmas bird count may help in monitoring populations. Also local bird counts maybe a useful tool in tracking population trends.
IX. Legal and landowner issues:	Notes: Many, people seem to be passionate about this bird, and removing this species has created some serious controversy.

F. REFERENCES :

Number	Reference
1	http://www.petbirdpage.com/breed.asp?breed=quaker
2	http://biology.ucok.edu/PersonalPages/CButler/monk_parakeet.pdf
3	http://www.petitiononline.com/CTMonks/petition.html
4	Wang, L. 2001. "Myiopsitta monachus" (On-line), Animal Diversity Web. Accessed August 09, 2007 at http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Myiopsitta_monachus.html .
5	http://www.columbia.edu/itc/cerc/danoff-burg/invasion_bio/inv_spp_summ/Myiopsitta_monachus2.html
6	http://myfwc.com/bba/mopa.htm
7	http://www.fpl.com/environment/exotic/monk_parakeet.shtml
8	http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1006&context=vpc6 Davis, Lewis R. 1974. The Monk Parakeet: A Potential Threat to Agriculture. Vertebrate Proceedings of the 6 th Vertebrate Pest Conference: pp 1-5. (Online).
9	http://www.ctaudubon.org/conserv/nature/parowl.htm
10	http://en.allexperts.com/q/Parrots-1638/Sun-conure-Quaker-Parrot.htm
11	http://www.answers.com/topic/monk-parakeet?cat=technology
12	http://www.issg.org/database/species/ecology.asp?si=1021&fr=1&sts
13	http://www.oregon.gov/OISC/docs/pdf/monkpara.pdf
14	http://www.elibrary.unm.edu/sora/Wilson/v107n03/p0510-0517.pdf

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