

What you should know about Quaker parrots in WI



Quaker parrots are regulated in the state of Wisconsin and cannot be bred or released to the wild.

Common Names: Quaker parakeet, Quaker parrot, monk parakeet, monk parrot

Scientific Name: *Myiopsitta monachus*

The Quaker parrot is a medium-sized bird native to South America, growing to 12 inches (31 cm) from head to tip of tail. Both females and males generally have a bright lime green body, gray forehead, cheeks, breast, and legs and a rosy pale orange or yellow beak. The underside of their wings is tinged with blue-black flight feathers. Varieties have been bred that are yellow, grey, mottled, or blue. As a pet, the Quaker parrot has historically been a popular bird because of its size, cost, and mimicking ability. In the wild, colonies are prolific and can be destructive to other plants and animals.

Quaker parrots: a “prohibited” species with some exemptions

The Quaker parrot is currently classified as a “prohibited” species in Wisconsin according to Wis. Chapter NR 40. *Myiopsitta monachus* are illegal to possess, transport, transfer* or introduce in the state of Wisconsin for risk of socio-economic and ecological damage from their release.

Despite their prohibited status, there are some exemptions to this rule. Birds owned as a **pet** in Wisconsin before the rule came into effect on **May 1, 2009** have some legal exemptions from this prohibited status. See the following from the Chapter NR 40 rule:

*A legally obtained nonnative wild animal that is a **pet may be possessed, transported or transferred*** without a permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources under this chapter **if obtained prior to and located in the State of Wisconsin** on the date the species is listed as prohibited under this section (**May 1, 2009**), but **may not be introduced to the wild.***

*The **offspring** of legally exempt **pet** birds may be possessed and transported but **may NOT be transferred* or introduced to the wild.***

****Transfer** or **transferred** means to buy, sell, trade, barter, exchange, give or receive or to offer to buy, sell, trade, barter, exchange, give or receive.*

Find more details on the NR 40 law: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/classification.html>



Quaker parrots have been bred to show different colors including yellow, grey, mottled, and blue.

All color varieties of Quaker parrots fall under the same Wisconsin restrictions and exemptions.

Why are Quaker parrots regulated in Wisconsin?

Quaker parrots are illegal to sell or release due to the threat of breeding populations becoming established in the wild. Wisconsin is one of many states regulating Quaker parrots. Check with state regulatory authorities in other states for the status of this species if traveling with a pet bird that is exempt from regulation in Wisconsin.

Risk to agriculture:

Quaker parrots are plant generalists and eat plant buds, fruit and grains. Elsewhere they are considered a major agricultural pest because flocks can devour planted grains, fruits and other crops. They represent a potential risk to Wisconsin's agriculture and economy.

Risk to the environment:

When Quaker parrots establish wild breeding colonies, they can aggressively outcompete native Wisconsin animals for food. Wild colonies have been confirmed as near as Chicago and northern Illinois.

Risk to public utilities:

When nesting on electrical utility poles, transformers and substations, Quaker parrots can damage power lines. The bulk of their nest interferes with utility equipment leading to short circuits, power outages and fires.



Quaker parrots building a colony on powerlines



Please submit questions or reports of wild sightings (detailed with address/GPS location and photos) to: Invasive.Species@Wisconsin.gov

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PUB-NH-534 (6/20/2019 v1 final)