

Monk Parakeet
22 Dec 1973
Davenport, Scott Co., IA
P. Petersen
also 23, 28 Dec; Petersen 1974

Record Number: 81-IS
Classification: NA

PHOTOGRAPH

Peter C. Petersen, P-0011 (IBL 44:22)

REFERENCE

Petersen, P.C. 1974. First Monk Parakeet record for Iowa. IBL 44:22-23.

Photograph: IBL 44:22 (P-0011)

VOTE (1981): on record 1-I-P, 4-VI, 1-pass (on ID 4-1-P, 1-III)

VI(I-P), Would change to I-P if this species is accepted by ABA or AOU.

Pass, my record.

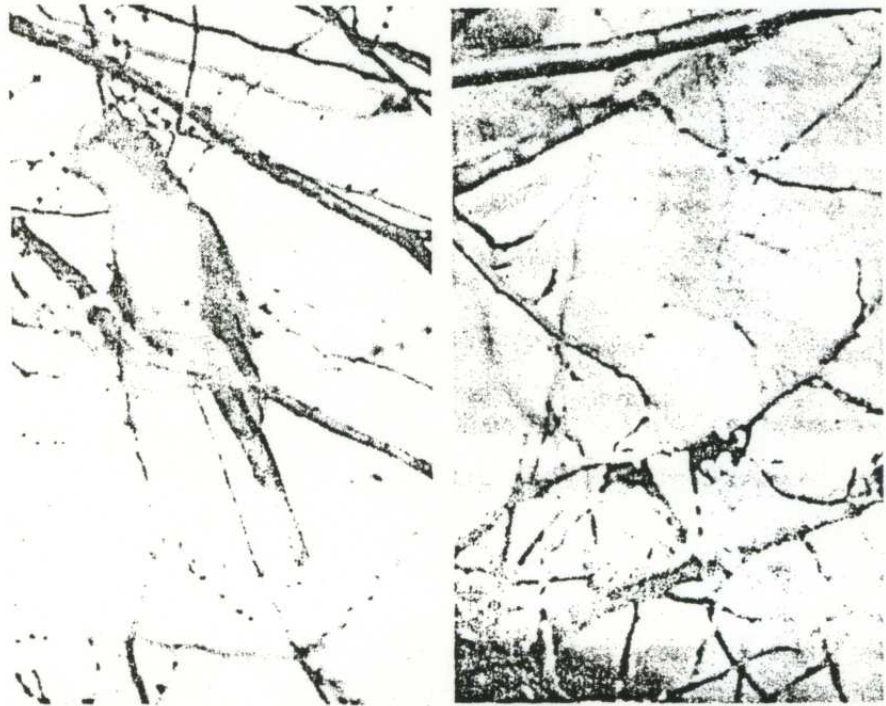
VI(III), Photograph (not in color and therefore of no definitive use). Many observers -- description plausible.

VI(I-P), Obviously not a thriving population; time will tell, as in the case of the Ringed Turtle Dove and Chukar.

Monk Parakeet

Petersen, P. C. 1974. First Monk Parakeet record for Iowa.
Iowa Bird Life 44:22-23

First Monk Parakeet Record for Iowa -- With the outbreak and spread of Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsetta monachus*) in Illinois, chiefly the Chicago area, (Illinois Audubon Bulletin, No. 166, p. 29-30) it seemed like only a matter of time until they made their way to Iowa. Aware of this possibility, Fred Lorenzen, Outdoor Editor of the Times-Democrat, Davenport, wrote a story advising people to be on the lookout for the birds at their feeders. The story ran on Dec. 16, 1973, the day of the Davenport Christmas Bird Census. Two reports were received with accurate descriptions, one from Moline and one from northwest Davenport where Mr. Charles Craft, 2325 N. Gayman Ave., observed one at his feeder. The bird remained in the area and was seen by Mrs. Karen McDonald at 2118 N. Ohio on Dec. 22 and 23. Mrs. McDonald had discovered the wintering Yellow-breasted Chat in 1971 (I. B. L. Vol. 42 p. 26) and reported the parakeet to the writer. Good weather for photography on December 28, 1973, permitted the writer to obtain several color slides with a 500m.m. lens, two of which are here reproduced in black-and-white.



Monk Parakeet, showing size compared with a House Sparrow. Photo by Peter C. Petersen

One shows the bird near a House Sparrow for size comparison. This constitutes the first Iowa record for this species. No decision has been made by federal authorities as to what will be done, but it seems logical that control measures must be begun soon if they are to have any chance of success.

The birds are chiefly a rich Kelly green with a pale gray throat and breast and blue primaries and secondaries. They are slightly slimmer than a Mourning Dove but about the same size. They have spread from accidental airport releases and intentional releases by pet shop owners and purchasers. The Davenport bird was present until about January 15. It will be interesting to follow the status of this bird and its economic impact in the future. PETER C. PETERSEN, 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport.