

Argonne National Laboratory. The population growth of Monk Parakeets should be monitored closely, and more research on the most basic aspects of their natural history in North America should be undertaken. We shouldn't encourage the growth of this species through deliberate releases, but at the same time it seems unnecessary to utilize sparse resources to control the population at this time.

### How to see the parakeets

The best time of the year to view Monk Parakeets is in spring. They repair their bulky stick nests all year round, but in spring, construction is an obsession. Loud, chattering para-

keets fly from tree to nest all day, tearing off fresh twigs and weaving them into the nest structure with agile beak and feet. Plan a morning trip to Jackson Park in spring during peak warbler migration. Just south of Bobolink Meadow is a driving range where five or six nests are built on stadium lights. A short journey farther south will bring you to the Jackson Park Golf Course.

Just west of Hole 1 are another five or six nests woven into the branches of several tall trees. If you can't see the birds, you should hear them.

You might also look for the 27 seven nests in Washington Park, a short drive away. About half of those

are in the park at 54th Street and Cottage Grove, in between a playground and a National Guard Armory. You can stand in the middle of a grove of trees and literally be surrounded by Monk Parakeets and their nests. Another 10 or 11 nests are behind the armory, near the northwest corner.

Finally, there's Harold Washington Park at 53rd Street and Lake Shore Drive. At one time nine nests were in one green ash tree. Now there are only three, but one large nest is one of the most impressive in Hyde Park.

The Hyde Park parakeets are also online, at <http://student-www.uchicago.edu/users/jmsouth/>

**Editor's Note:** *The Illinois Ornithological Records Committee, in 1999, officially placed the Monk Parakeet on the Illinois State Checklist of Birds. The committee used this paper to help in its decision.*

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