

Quaker Parrot

February 14, 2007

Scientific Name: Myiopsitta monachus

Size: The Quaker is a small parrot, reaching 11 to 12 inches in length. As a comparison, the Quaker is a bird similar in length to a Cockatiel, but the Quaker's body is heavier and more substantial with an average weight of 90 to 120 grams.

Habitat: Quaker parrots live in open woodlands. They also adapt readily to urban areas.

Fascinating Facts:

- The Quaker Parrot is also known as the Monk Parakeet, Green Parakeet, Grey-breasted Parakeet, and Montevideo Parakeet.
- The Quaker Parakeet is found naturally in South America, central Bolivia, southern Brazil, parts of Argentina, and Uruguay.
- It was introduced to the United States in the late 1960s as a pet. Many escaped or were intentionally released, and populations were allowed to proliferate. By the early 1970s, it was established in seven states, and by 1995 it had spread to eight more. There are now thought to be approximately 100,000 in Florida alone.
- In areas where they have been introduced, some fear that they will harm crops and native species. Evidence of the harm of these birds in introduced areas is disputed. Many people oppose killing a charismatic bird, but there have been local bans and eradication programs in some areas of the USA. Due to its invasive species status, a number of states outlaw either importation, sale, release, or mere possession of a monk parakeet. *Quaker parrots are legal in Louisiana*
- The Quaker gets its name from the facial feathering that has a gray bibbed pattern, resembling an old fashioned Quaker costume.

