



EDITOR'S PAGE

More on the 32nd A.O.U. Check-list Supplement

The Auk for October, 1973, carries corrections and additions to the 32nd supplement to the Check-list of North American Birds (1957, fifth edition). Only one item pertains to J. T. Leverich's summary in BIRD OBSERVER, Vol. 1, No. 5, Sept-Oct., 1973. On page 104, for Storm Petrel read Storm-Petrel.

MONK PARAKEET UPDATE

Since 1968, over 50,000 Monk Parakeets (Mycopsitta monachus) have been imported into the United States. Escapes have shown the ability to withstand northern winters and initially established a feral population near New York City, now numbering 200 to 300. Since these birds are known to damage grain and fruit crops, there was great concern among agricultural interests when it seemed that the Monk Parakeet was extending its range.

Unconfirmed sightings have now been made from 21 states. However, according to P. A. Buckley (American Birds, Vol. 27, no. 3), "There is good evidence that repeated local releases/escapes are responsible for much of the supposed "range extension". Richard Robins, University of Miami, notes (Center for Short-Lived Phenonema, Card 1948), "No Monk Parakeets have been imported to the United States since the summer of 1972 ... The population of Monk Parakeets in the wild may possibly be declining as a result of this ban."

Dr. Buckley warns that not every free-flying parrot should be assumed to be a monk. One potentially confusing species is the Canary-winged Parakeet (Brotogeris versicolurus), which may have become established around Miami (American Birds, Vol. 26, No. 3).

The Monk Parakeet is a pale green psittiforme about 12 inches in length, from head to tip of tail. It has a light gray hood, extending from the forehead to the breast, some blue on the wings, and a light-colored bill. These birds are the only members of their order that live in large community nests of sticks, rather than in tree holes. They are native to Argentina, southern Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

The Canary-winged Parakeet is also green but smaller, being about 9 inches long. When flushed or flying, a yellow wing-patch is conspicuous. Other field marks include a blue eye ring and a horn-colored bill. These birds are native to Brazil.

L. J. R. and R. H. S.

REGIONAL COMPILERS

Please send all of your reports before the 5th of the following month to any of the compilers in your area:

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