

*The Condor*  
Volume 109, Number 2  
May 2007 C.E.  
Abstracts

## FEATURE ARTICLES

### **GEOGRAPHIC VARIATION IN CONTACT CALLS OF FERAL NORTH AMERICAN POPULATIONS OF THE MONK PARAKEET**

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Manuscript received 18 July 2006; accepted 1 February 2007.

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*Abstract.* Introduced feral populations offer a unique opportunity to study the effects of social interaction and founder effects on the development of geographic variation in learned vocalizations. Introduced populations of Monk Parakeets (*Myiopsitta monachus*) have been growing in number since the 1970s, with a mixture of isolated and potentially interacting populations. We surveyed diversity in contact calls of Monk Parakeet populations in Connecticut, Texas, Florida, and Louisiana. Contact call structure differed significantly among the isolated populations in each state. Contact call structure also differed significantly among potentially interacting nest colonies in coastal Connecticut, and these differences did not follow a geographic gradient. Limited dispersal distances, founder effects, and social learning preferences may play a role in call structure differences.

*Key words:* contact call, geographic variation, introduced populations, Monk Parakeet, *Myiopsitta monachus*.