

**MONK PARAKEETS (*MYIOPSITTA MONACHUS*)  
NESTING IN HUNTSVILLE**

Bill Summerour

Acting on a hearsay report of "green parrots" using a "huge" nest on a telephone pole in Huntsville, I called Bob and Martha Sargent of Birmingham and met with them and their daughter, Donna, in Huntsville to investigate the sighting.

We were taken to a suburban area in northeast Huntsville by a local resident who pointed out the large, domed nest placed on top of a transformer approximately 20 feet up on a telephone pole. In about 15 minutes a pair of parakeets showed up, squawking and screeching noisily and right away started cutting twigs from nearby trees and making trips back and forth to the nest as we watched and photographed them (Fig. 1).



Figure 1. Monk Parakeet nest in Huntsville and birds with building material.  
(Photos by Bob Sargent)



## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

Some of the residents in the neighborhood said that two, and sometimes three, parakeets had been using the nest for at least three years (now four), but none knew for sure if any young had ever been raised. Benjie Blair, a student at Jacksonville State University, checked the nest this past May (1990) and said that House Sparrows and Starlings were using it, but the parrots were not seen. Later in the summer the sparrows and starlings were gone and the parakeets had returned.

At this writing nothing is known about the status of the Monk Parakeet in the Huntsville area. This is the first reported nest in Alabama and so far the only one known. There is a rumor of another nest in Madison, just west of Huntsville, and I have talked with other Huntsville residents who recall having seen "large green parakeets" flying over town as long as ten years ago. The evidence suggests that there may well be other parakeets nesting in Huntsville, and possibly in nearby towns as well.

Anyone interested in seeing the birds should contact me or the Sargents for directions.

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## ATLANTA ARCHITECT DESIGNS HOUSING FOR BARN OWLS (*TYTO ALBA*)

Bill Summerour

Thanks to a conservation-minded Atlanta architect, Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*) in the Atlanta area will have new nesting sites to choose from this spring. Keith Summerour of Gruber and Associates Architects, an Atlanta based architectural firm, has designed the housing for two pumping stations and has included accommodations in them for Barn Owls. Keith said he first got the idea in Europe where he had observed owl holes under the gables of 18th and 19th century barns.

One of the stations, now completed, is in Lake Peachtree near Peachtree City and the other will be constructed about 30 miles south of Atlanta in a wooded area near Line Creek. Both pumping stations are under the authority of the Fayette County Water Authority. The Peachtree Lake station is designed somewhat like a miniature castle with four