

General Field Notes

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A Monk Parakeet Specimen From Greenville County, S.C.

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On 6 September 1985 an unknown dove hunter shot and killed one bird from among a passing flock of unknown species in 'Upper' Greenville County. Recognizing the bird as a parrot, the hunter took it to the Roper Mountain Science Center, where Cornwell identified it as a Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*), and accepted it as a donation from the hunter. In the summer of 1986, the bird's frozen remains were transferred to the vertebrate collections at Clemson University, where they were prepared as a standard study skin (CUSC 2267).

The bird, a sexually mature female in very fresh and well-kept plumage, had very little subcutaneous fat, and weighted 102.1 g at the time that it was preserved. Its crop was full of crushed, light-colored, small-kernel grain or grass seeds.

The distributon of Monk Parakeets is described by Forshaw (Parrots of the World, 2nd ed., Lansdowne Press, Melbourne, 1973) as 'native to central Bolivia and southern Brazil south to central Argentina, recently introduced to, and apparently now established in, Puerto Rico and northeastern United States'. This specimen, along with several sightings and at least one other specimen (Chat 40:68-69, 1976), may be interpreted as physical evidence that Monk Parakeets are becoming established in South Carolina as well.