

Brussels Psittacidae: impacts, risks assessment and actions range

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Invasive species raise many questions regarding their environmental impacts. A study carried out in 2008 by Aves, in collaboration with Brussels Capital-Region environment institute (IBGE) reviewed Psittacidae populations current status in the Brussels area and analysed their present and potential impacts in order to inform policy-makers about the best management practices able to limit these impacts. Three Psittacidae breed in Brussels: the Alexandrine Parakeet (*Psittacula eupatria*), the Ring-necked Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) and the Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*). The case of the Monk Parakeet will not be further developed here, the population being easier to manage. The impact assessment includes the following points: invasive potential, damage for crops and vegetation, competition with indigenous species, pathology transmission risks, massive feeding by man and roosts impacts. The risk assessment is based on two schemes. Both of these schemes lead to the conclusion of a weak to moderate impact of the Alexandrine Parakeet and the Ring-necked Parakeet. The actions range reviews the possible management measures, from the weakest to the strongest. The conclusions highlight the necessity to adapt measures to the impacts. Preventing the massive feeding of these species by the inhabitants is an important lever, but stronger measures, like chemical sterilization, could be considered for the two species.