

## Parakeets in Ellesmere Park

Many of our members have reported seeing large numbers of parakeets in the area, particularly on the Three Sisters. Some people find them attractive while others are concerned on the impact they are having on other wildlife in the area.

The fact that a lot of people find these non-native birds so delightful and are feeding them is one of the major factors that they are thriving. That, and the fact that they are prolific breeders and can live to over thirty years. Unfortunately, however, they are not to be encouraged as they take over the nest holes of bats and native birds especially woodpeckers, nuthatches and starlings. A recent study has found that other garden birds ate less whenever parakeets flew into sight and that they moved away from the parakeets regular haunts. The study also said parakeets had a significant effect on the foraging practices of native birds, particularly blue tits and great tits and compared parakeets with the grey squirrels that have largely driven out red squirrels across Britain.



The photograph on the left was taken by a member who lives on Westminster Road and whose garden backs onto the Three Sisters.

His comment was:

“Our feeders are full of them!!!!!!”

The following articles may be of interest regarding the potential problems with parakeets.

[RSPB - Ring-necked, parakeet in the UK](#)

[RSPB – History of Parakeets in the UK](#)

[Inside Ecology - Invasive non-native species \(UK\) – Ring-necked parakeet](#)