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AUDUBON**
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Managing Monk Parakeet Nests in Austin

Joint Statement of the Travis Audubon Society and Austin Energy

June 6, 2017

Austin's unique reputation can be found in all aspects of the community, including the wildlife that calls this capital city home. When considering Austin's population of Monk Parakeets, finding the best balance between their habitat and electrical infrastructure is an important responsibility for Austin Energy and its community partners.

Last week, the Travis Audubon Society raised the concern that removal of parakeet nests from critical electric poles and wires has led to the loss of eggs and chicks, particularly during nesting season. When some parakeet nests — made of interwoven sticks — interfere with essential equipment, the nests can become a hazard to public safety and the electric system. Once an imminent threat is assessed, Austin Energy must remove these nests as a safeguard to the community and reliability.

Travis Audubon Society and Austin Energy agree that while removal of nests from electric infrastructure may at times be necessary, all maintenance practices should have no more impact on wildlife than is essential to maintain public safety and electric reliability. With Travis Audubon Society providing recommendations for best practices, Austin Energy will review its maintenance practices during nesting season and partner with wildlife rescue organizations as appropriate.

Both Austin Energy and Travis Audubon Society recognize that partnership in promoting jointly held values for respect for wildlife and public safety is in the best interests of the local community.

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