
Call for a Bachelor's or Master's Thesis:

Public perception of ring-necked parakeets in Germany

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Originally from Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, Ring-necked parakeets (*Psittacula krameria*, Fig. 1) have been introduced in Germany since the 1960s, in particular in urban areas [1,2]. On the one hand, ring-necked parakeets are often perceived as a source of conflict due to their loud and unusual vocalisations [3], as well as their debated and investigated impacts on native biodiversity [4,5,6]. On the other hand, parakeets are also valued as people appreciate their colorful appearance and their sense of “exotic nature” [7]. In Cologne, ring-necked parakeets have even entered local culture with the carnival song “*Jröne Papagaje*” from 2022. These contrasting perceptions highlight the complexity of human-wildlife relationships in urban environments. From a management and conservation perspective, this raises the question of how parakeets can be managed in a sustainable way that considers ecological impacts and integrates public perceptions. Understanding how people perceive parakeets is therefore crucial for developing socially accepted management and promoting coexistence. While studies have investigated public perceptions of parakeets in countries such as the United Kingdom [8,9], there is currently no systematic study focusing on the perception of parakeets in Germany, presenting a significant research gap, particularly given the long history and high visibility of parakeets in German cities.



Figure 1 Ring-necked parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*)

The aim of this thesis is to investigate public perceptions of parakeets in Germany and to identify factors shaping positive, negative and neutral attitudes towards this species. The study will focus on questions such as how people perceive parakeets in their everyday environment, which aspects are considered problematic or beneficial, and how these perceptions might influence preferences for different management approaches. Data will be collected using an online survey and/or in-person questionnaires/interviews. The study can be conducted across Germany or focus on selected metropolitan regions, particularly along the Rhine (e.g. Cologne).

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Requirements:

- Enrolled Bachelor's or Master's student at Ruhr Universität Bochum
- Interest in human-nature relationships, urban ecology, invasive species, or conservation science
- Willingness to conduct empirical social science research (surveys and/or interviews)
- Independent, structured, and reliable working style
- Strong language skills in German and English
- Interest in scientific writing and, potentially, in publishing the results

For further information or to apply, please contact simon.moesch@ruhr-uni-bochum.de

References: 1. Braun et al. (2009). Vogelwelt, 2; Ineichen et al. (2012). Stadtfauna; 3. Mori et al. (2020) Urban Ecosystems; 4. Marcolin et al. (2026). Ibis; 5. Newson et al. (2011). Ibis; 6. Peck et al. (2014). Behavioral Ecology; 7. Rotherham & Watchman (2025). Diversity; 8. Pirzio-Biroli et al. (2024). NeoBiota, 9. Moesch et al. (2024). Journal of Urban Ecology