Recent observations of Thick-billed Parrots in Jalisco.—The Thick-billed Parrot (*Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha*) is listed in the Red Data Book (Survival Service Comm., Intern. Union Conserv. Nature and Natural Resources, Vol. 2, Morges, Switzerland, 1967) as "very rare and believed to be decreasing in numbers" and "giving cause for considerable anxiety." Concern that the species may be threatened with extinction has been expressed by Monson (Audubon Field Notes, 19:369, 1965). These sources cite lumbering in the species' montane pine (*Pinus* spp.) forest habitat, in the Sierra Madre Occidental of Mexico, as the principal cause of its decline in numbers. The closely related Maroon-fronted Parrot (*R. terrisi*) of northeastern Mexico is also thought to be threatened with extinction because of habitat destruction.

In view of the threatened status of *Rhynchopsitta*, it seems worthwhile to record our observations of *R. pachyrhyncha* on the two Volcanes de Colima, in southern Jalisco. Two flocks of Thick-billed Parrots, one with about 60 birds and the other about 15, were seen within 300 m of the summit of the Volcán de Fuego on 15 January 1972. The birds called loudly while flying overhead. On 6 January 1973 we observed a flock of approximately 120 parrots along the east slope of the same volcano, at about 2,000 m elevation. We were at the crest of a small peak, believed to be Cerro Alto, and the parrot flock circled near the edge of a ridge almost two km to the northeast. This behavior continued for about 15 min with considerable calling, and then the birds settled into the pines at about sunset. At 08:00 on 7 January, about 100 birds (probably many of the same individuals) were observed calling loudly and circling just above the tree-tops of Cerro Alto. Later in the morning, we saw a group of 30 flying Thick-billed Parrots, five of which landed and fed in the crowns of several small pines. These birds were observed at close range for almost one hr. Vegetationally, Cerro Alto is in the "arid pine-oak forest" zone described by Schaldach (Proc. West. Found. Vert. Zool., 1[1]:5, 1963), although the north slope of this small peak supports a denser, lusher forest approaching the "humid pine-oak forest" zone.

On 8 January, 12 parrots were seen from 14:00 to 15:00 at 2,800 m on the Volcán de Fuego. In addition, we encountered a flock of more than 100 individuals in flight on the west slope of the Volcán de Nieve, at about 2,900 m elevation. These birds were at least half a km away and high above the forest. We have no way of judging if this flock was the one we had seen the previous day. Our observations were from points on opposite sides of the volcanic massif, with a straight-line distance of roughly 12 km separating them.

Thick-billed Parrots were found on the Volcanes de Colima by E. W. Nelson, who took a female on 23 April 1892 (USNM 155,410), and by Beebe (Two bird lovers in Mexico, Houghton Mifflin Co., New York, 1905:250–251), who collected a female on 5 February 1904 (AMNH 804,998). During his considerable field work on the north slope of the Volcán de Nieve in the late 1950's, Schaldach (op. cit.) apparently never encountered the species. However, A. R. Phillips (in litt.) states, "The only time I ever saw what I took to be Thick-billed Parrots was high on the Volcán de Colima, going to roost in fair numbers (19 Dec. or 20 Dec. 1959)."

According to Ángel Lara (pers. comm.), manager of the University of Oklahoma Hacienda at El Cóbano, Colima, local residents in the volcano area occasionally see parrots along the road that ascends the north slope of the Volcán de Nieve, from Ciudad Guzmán, Jalisco. On our other visits to the volcanos in May 1972, 1973, and 1974, we did not see the species. We suspect that the parrots on the volcanos are wintering birds from the species' principal range in the Sierra Madre Occidental, although there is a possibility that they are local breeders. In Chihuahua, nesting of Thick-billed Parrots

takes place in August (Thayer, Auk, 23:223–225, 1906) and extends to October (Bergtold, Auk, 23:425–428, 1906). As yet, there are no records of the species on the Colima volcanos at that time of year.

In January 1973 we ascended the volcanos along the east slope of the Volcán de Fuego, along a road joining the valley town of Atenquique and the saddle between the two volcanic peaks. Several roads leave the saddle, and we found a newly constructed one that proceeded northward along the west side of the massif, gradually ascending the Volcán de Nieve. Workers with a bulldozer were extending the road at 3,200 m elevation. Along the entire 40 km of the road, the forest—including some magnificent stands of fir (*Abies religiosa*)—was almost entirely intact. However, a lumbering facility was in operation on the saddle, with its output of slats, shingles, and parts of wooden crates neatly stacked for drying. Because of this lumbering and the active paper mill at Atenquique, the future may be bleak for the forests on the volcanos and the parrots that depend upon them. At this time, there is still an abundance of undisturbed pine forest. Much occurs on steep and relatively unstable slopes, a fact that may retard its destruction by man. In addition, we noted several areas on the volcanos where numerous small pines have been planted, indicating that at least parts of the forests being lumbered may eventually be replaced.

We express our thanks to R. W. Dickerman and R. B. Payne for supplying information on *Rhynchopsitta* specimens, and to D. Amadon for permitting us to examine collections at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH).—GARY D. SCHNELL, *Department of Zoology and Stovall Museum, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma 73069,* JOHN S. WESKE, *National Fish and Wildlife Laboratory, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. 20560, and* JENNA J. HELLACK, *Department of Zoology and Stovall Museum, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma 73060.* *Accepted 3 June 1974.*

Red squirrel attacks a Pileated Woodpecker.—On 26 March 1974 we observed a red squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*) attack a Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) in our yard near Ithaca, New York. The woodpecker was perched near the base of a large white pine (*Pinus strobus*), when a red squirrel came down the trunk of the tree to go to a bird-feeder about 10 ft away. When the descending squirrel noticed the woodpecker, it made several aggressive feints towards the bird. The woodpecker threw its head backward, raised its crest, and slightly lifted and spread its wings in a threat display (Kilham, Condor, 61:377–387, 1959). The squirrel retreated and then ran down the side of the trunk opposite the woodpecker. It went to the bird-feeder and ate seeds on the ground for several minutes. Suddenly it ran back up the tree, and then came down the trunk toward the Pileated Woodpecker, again making aggressive feints. This time the woodpecker jumped off the trunk onto the ground and gave its threat display as before. The squirrel then leaped onto the woodpecker's breast, and the two struggled briefly and silently before the bird broke away and flew high into another tree. The squirrel ran up the pine and chattered, apparently unharmed.

We can suggest no reasons for this aggression, although the proximity of the food in the unnatural setting of a feeding station may create conflict where abnormal densities and aggregations of species occur. The squirrel could easily descend the large tree without encountering the woodpecker, and neither species was near its nest. A literature search revealed no reports of similar encounters; however, Klugh (J. Mammal., 8:1–32, 1927) observed that red squirrels will chase birds from their food caches, although he