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Abstracts

## FEATURE ARTICLES

### PRODUCTIVITY AND NESTING SUCCESS OF THICK-BILLED PARROTS TIBERIO MONTEERRUBIO<sup>1,3</sup>, ERNESTO ENKERLIN-HOEFLICH<sup>2</sup> AND ROBERT B. HAMILTON<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*School of Renewable Natural Resources, Louisiana State University,  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803*

<sup>2</sup>*Centro de Calidad Ambiental, Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de  
Monterrey. Monterrey, Nuevo León, México*

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<sup>3</sup>Present address: Facultad de Biología, Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de  
Hidalgo, edificio R Ciudad Universitaria, Morelia, Michoacán, México 58040. E-mail:  
[tiberio@zeus.umich.mx](mailto:tiberio@zeus.umich.mx)

*Abstract.* We studied productivity and nesting success of the Thick-billed Parrot (*Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha*) during a 7-year period (1995–2001) in five nesting areas at the Sierra Madre Occidental in Mexico. Two breeding areas continue to be the breeding strongholds for the species. We found 553 cavities with associated pairs and determined the outcome of 187 accessible nests. Of 510 eggs followed, 405 (79%) hatched, and 307 (60%) produced fledglings. Clutch size averaged 2.7 eggs, and mean reproductive output was 1.6 fledglings per egg-laying pair. Overall nest success was 80% and ranged from 88% in 1996 to 60% in 2000. This was higher than nest success of most psittacines, and we consider productivity excellent in remaining areas of good habitat. Nevertheless, the species has nearly disappeared from many areas of its former range that have been converted from old-growth coniferous stands to immature stands deficient in both nest sites and food.

*Key words:* nesting success, pine forests, productivity, *Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha*, *Thick-billed Parrot*.