shores of Lake Tahoe 30 or 40 miles away and had remarked on the fact that we saw no gulls. Yet gulls these night fliers seemed surely to be. The gull-like screeching of the flock chorus ruled out anything else. It seems probable that they were California Gulls (*Larus californicus*). Could it have been flock after flock instead of just one group circling about? Almost certainly not. The gulls were heard off and on thereafter until 2230, when they had finally left or settled.

The next morning Mr. Petersen of our party saw "two white gulls with blackish wing tips" along the Truckee River immediately behind the Lodge. We noticed two or three gulls in the distance as we drove to the Reno Airport.—D. AMADON, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York, 12 November 1965.*

A Specimen of the Vermilion Flycatcher from Oklahoma.—On 1 July 1965, about 30 minutes before dusk, I saw a Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) four miles southeast of Kenton, Cimarron County, Oklahoma. In this area the Texakeet Creek has cut a valley about a quarter-mile wide between rocky mesas that rise perhaps 200 feet above the valley floor. The valley is sparsely covered with mesquite, cholla, yucca, and grasses, and a grove of 50-foot walnut trees borders the creek. I first saw the flycatcher hawking insects from yucca stalks and from the lower branches of the walnuts, and it stayed within 50 yards of these trees.

The bird was collected, and proved to be a male (testes, 7 × 5 mm; skull completely ossified) in mixed first-year plumage. The plumage is quite faded and bleached, unfortunately rendering the specimen subspecifically unidentifiable (K. C. Parkes, personal communication). Measurements of the specimen are as follows: wing, 79.0 mm; tail, 60.0 mm. It has been deposited in the University of Oklahoma Museum of Zoology (UOMZ 5738).

Although this is the first specimen of this species for Oklahoma, it has previously been seen several times in the state, and breeding pairs have been observed in Major, Lincoln, and Cimarron counties (G. M. Sutton, ms).—JOHN A. WIENS, *Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 8 November 1965.*

Additional Records of Whistling Swans Feeding in Dry Fields.—In two recent reports, one by Innis (Audubon Mag., 66:304, 1964) and the other by Nagel (Condor, 67:446, 1965), Whistling Swans (*Olor columbianus*) were described as feeding in dry corn stubble. Both authors regarded this as an unusual occurrence, and Nagel indicated that it was an atypical response to the prolonged winter freeze in the spring of 1964 in Utah. These reports prompt us to record several other such instances. During the winters of 1962–1963 and 1963–1964 several observations of swans feeding in partially dry fields were made in the vicinity of Stockton, California. Four of these instances were specifically recorded in our notes and are reported here.

A group of seven swans was watched walking on muddy ground in a partially flooded corn stubble field on 25 February 1964. Although the birds were more than one-quarter mile away, it could be seen with binoculars that they were feeding, apparently picking up kernels of corn left by the harvesting operation. Near them, in the flooded part of the field, were 45 more swans feeding in the muddy water. This was a group of birds that had been present for several days on this particular field.

Soon after daylight on 14 November 1963, we observed a group of 27 birds standing on bare ground in a newly plowed field. There was no standing water nearby, suggesting that the birds had landed on the dry field sometime during the night. The birds, probably newly arrived migrants, were mostly sleeping and stretching their wings. Some of the birds were searching the ground, but as far as we could determine there was no suitable food present.

On the morning of 11 February 1964, a flock of 150 birds was observed in flooded corn stubble. Five birds were feeding on scattered corn grains near the flooded portion of the field. Just after noon, we watched a group of 30 birds in a flooded potato field. Most of the birds

were resting in the water near the edge of the flooded area, but a few individuals were walking on the ground, grubbing in the mud for potatoes left after harvesting.

This behavior seems to be more common than previously noted, at least among wintering birds. Three of the above instances were not in response to adverse conditions but rather seemed to be part of the normal feeding pattern for flocks of this species wintering in central California. —JAMES TATE, JR., and D. JEAN TATE, *Department of Zoology and Physiology, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska, 15 December 1965.*

Homosexual Behavior in Wild Orange-fronted Parakeets.—The tendency toward homosexual behavior in many species of captive psittaciform birds is a characteristic well known, if not well documented, by experienced aviculturists. In the past, many such observations upon captive birds have been based upon subjective, or even intuitive, "determination" of the sex of the individuals involved. The lack of external sexual dimorphism in most species of psittacines necessitates the careful determination of sex of both of the partners concerned either by subsequent autopsy, or more conveniently for the aviculturist, by laparotomy. Recently, Dilger (Zeits. Tierpsychol., 17:649–685, 1960), working with African Lovebirds of the genus *Agapornis* Selby, and Hardy (Condor, 65:169–199, 1963), working with *Aratinga canicularis* (Linné), the Orange-fronted Parakeet of Middle America, have observed homosexuality in captive birds in which the sex of each partner was definitely known by gonadal examination. Aside from the problem imposed in ascertaining the sex of each individual comprising the pair in wild birds, there is, to my knowledge, no documented account of homosexual behavior in wild individuals of any species within the Order Psittaciformes. Thus doubt has existed as to whether homosexual behavior in psittacines may not be a pattern (whether latent in the wild or otherwise) either induced or brought forth by the conditions of confinement. The following observations confirm the presence of homosexual behavior in wild individuals of the Orange-fronted Parakeet, *Aratinga canicularis*.

During irregular intervals between November 1961 and April 1962, I made observations of both foraging flocks and pairs of *A. canicularis* on the properties of the Escuela Nacional de Agricultura y Ganadería, 12 km E of Managua, Nicaragua, alt. 150 feet. The habitat at this locality consists of Pacific coast lowland broadleaf forest (tropical deciduous forest of some authors), interrupted by cultivated fields and pastures. Termitaria, potential nesting sites for *Aratinga*, are a conspicuous feature of this habitat; these varied from small, football-size structures on fence posts and lower snags to immense 5- to 6-foot-long masses, which not infrequently occurred as high as 60–70 feet in large, dead *Ceiba* and other trees. Many of these termitaria evidenced excavation by parakeets; some of the larger structures exhibited as many as five separate entrances, although this does not, of course, indicate occupancy by more than one pair of birds at any given time. The Orange-chinned Parakeet, *Brotogeris jugularis* (P. L. S. Müller), was also commonly found in this habitat, but was not observed to associate in any way with *A. canicularis*. The area was, in short, a characteristic habitat for *Aratinga canicularis* such as may be found at many localities on the Pacific slope of Middle America from central Sinaloa, México, south to Costa Rica.

At approximately 1035, on 31 December 1961, I encountered a flock of nine *A. canicularis* perched on two horizontal limbs near the top of a large, broadleaf tree near the edge of the forest. The birds were not feeding, but rather were sitting quietly or slowly walking up and down the limbs and testing their mandibles on the bark. Occasionally a short, low mutter would issue from one or more individuals. After about 10 minutes of observation, the flock suddenly exited with loud alarm cries, flying off over an open, cultivated field. About 100 yards from the woodland, two of the individuals broke from the flock, and circling widely together, slowly returned to the original perch tree in the forest. At this point, my attention was diverted to other species, and it was fully five minutes before the pair of *Aratinga* was again under observation. At this time, the pair was sitting side-by-side on a limb at approximately the same height, but on the opposite side of the tree from the limb upon which the flock had originally perched. A few seconds later, they dropped to another limb a few feet lower—one of the birds circling several