

from the traps and quite often gets trapped.

+ - 22/11/72 Common around F.G.H.

COMMON RAVEN.

+ - 1/1/73 Resident at F.G.H.

BOREAL CHICKADEE.

- 12/10/72 F.G.H.

AMERICAN ROBIN.

+ oH 6/7/72 F.G.H.

YELLOW WARBLER

- 3/7/72 F.G.H.

PINE GROSBEAK.

o 12/4/73 F.G.H.

COMMON REDPOLL

+ - 19/10/72 F.G.H.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL

o 6/2/73 F.G.H.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW.

+ oH 5/5/72 F.G.H.

SNOW BUNTING. This species was only observed once, on September 28, 1972, when a large flock stayed in the settlement of Fort Good Hope for 3 or 4 days.

HARLEQUIN DUCK AT SASKATOON

by WAYNE HARRIS*

On June 22, 1973, at about 12:30 p.m., E. A. Driver and I were watching Common Suckers trying to jump the

weir on the South Saskatchewan River adjacent to the university campus in Saskatoon when a male Harlequin Duck swam out from the bank just above the dam. As neither of us had binoculars, I returned to the office for a pair plus a camera.

Upon my return the duck was feeding about 30 yards from shore. While I tried to get close enough to take some photographs Ed and two others who had returned with me, Vic Lieffers and Don Peden, watched the bird. I approached within 30 yards and took several photographs of the duck between his dives.



Harlequin Duck

Wayne Harris

The Harlequin was in full breeding plumage with an unmistakable black and white pattern on the head and neck, rusty flank and white line above the wing. The bird was surprisingly tame, paying no attention to the nearby activity on shore, and fed continuously during 45 minutes of observation. His dives were well timed: he dove about 30 feet upstream from the edge of the weir, surfacing 3 feet from the lip of the weir, seeming certain to go over, only to swim back upstream and dive again.

The Harlequin remained for 5 days during which time he was observed by several members of the Saskatoon Natural History Society. The duck was last observed on the evening of June 26 at which time he was resting on the river well out from shore.

This sighting is the first for the Saskatoon area and the sixth for Saskatchewan. The previous records

*Box 93,
Raymore, Saskatchewan.
S0A 3J0

are: an adult male collected from a flock of several pairs at Saskatchewan Landing, May 31, 1934⁴; a male on the Puskwakau River (54°34'N and 103°34'W), July 13 and 14, 1966⁵; three adult males in eclipse plumage at Regina, September 6, 1968²; one of undetermined sex or age at Condie, October 10, 1968² and an adult male south of Regina, June 5, 1971¹.

The normal range of this species in Canada is the Yukon and British Columbia where it frequents fast mountain streams in the breeding season and the open sea in winter. The Harlequin is also found in eastern Canada from the southern tip of Baffin Island and southeast along the coast of Quebec and Labrador.³ In the United States the closest breeding range is western Montana where it breeds sparingly in the Rocky Mountains.^{6,7} It is regarded as a rare migrant inland throughout the continent.

I wish to thank J. B. Gollop for assistance in obtaining information for this note and Edward Driver and Jim Wedgwood for reading the manuscript.

- BRAZIER, F. H. 1971. Harlequin Duck at Regina. *Blue Jay* 29: 128-129.
- BRUNTON, D. F. 1968. The Harlequin Duck in Saskatchewan. *Blue Jay* 26: 178-179.
- GODFREY, W. E. 1966. Birds of Canada. *Natl. Mus. Can. Bull.* 203 Ottawa. 428 pp.
- HOUSTON, C. S., F. G. BARD and R. W. NERO. 1958. Further information on certain unusual Saskatchewan bird records. *Blue Jay* 16: 64-65.
- McNICHOLL, M. K. 1973. Records of the Harlequin Duck in Manitoba and adjacent regions. *Blue Jay* 31: 105-107.
- SAUNDERS, A. A. 1921. A distributional list of the birds of Montana. *Pacific Coast Avifauna* No. 14, Cooper Ornithological Club, Berkley, California. 194 pp.
- SKAAR, P. D. 1969. Birds of Bozeman Latilong. P. D. Skaar, Bozeman, Montana. 131 pp.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE IN BREEDING PLUMAGE NEAR FORT SMITH, N.W.T.

by ERNIE KUYT*

On June 3, 1973, my family and I visited a slough near the northeast corner of Alberta (59°52'N, 111°42'W), about 10 miles south of the N.W.T.-Alberta border. The slough is one of our favourite spring birding areas and on this day my wife and I saw at least eight species of ducks, some shorebirds, gulls and other, smaller birds. Of the shorebirds, the most interesting species seen was Wilson's Phalarope. A male and female in breeding plumage were flushed from a small, cattail-ringed pond. The two birds landed on the shore of the main slough and were watched for about 10 minutes through 7 x 50 binoculars.

On June 8 I returned to re-locate the birds and to try to find their nest, however, only the female was found. Photographs taken at the time were later examined by W. Earl Godfrey who verified my identification.

Godfrey reports the Wilson's Phalarope nesting in Alberta as far north as Bear Lake in the Grande Prairie region and occurring in summer without evidence of breeding near Lake Athabasca.¹ Nero provided the first Saskatchewan breeding record of the Northern Phalarope (south of Lake Athabasca) but he did not list the Wilson's Phalarope among birds observed in the same area.² Richard King, surgeon and naturalist with Back's expedition to the mouth of the Great Fish River (now Back River), claims to have collected Wilson's Phalarope near Artillery Lake but that seems too far to the northeast for this common prairie bird.³

Our sighting of Wilson's Phalarope near Fort Smith constitutes an 85-mile northward extension of its known

*Canadian Wildlife Service,
Box 508,
Fort Smith, N.W.T.,
X0E 0P0

**Saskatchewan
Natural History Society
Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting
For details see page 192.**