

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.

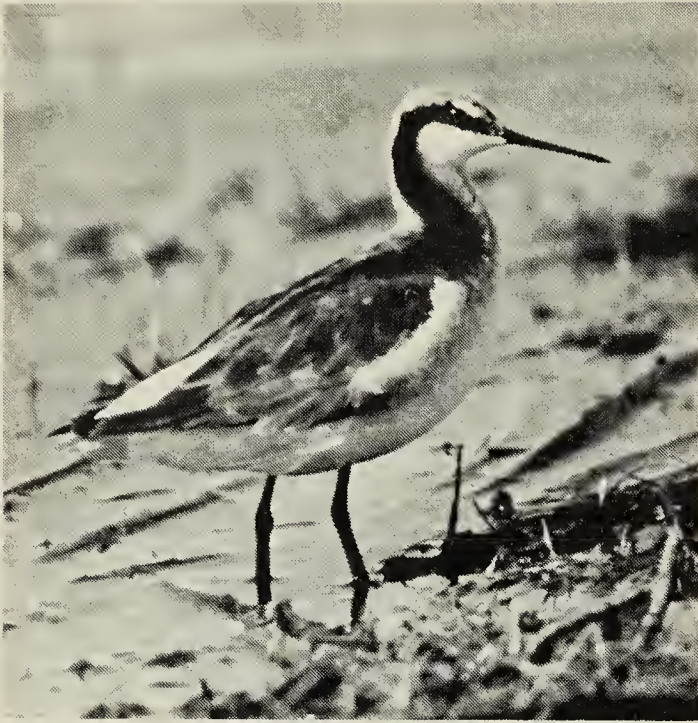
On June 8 I returned to re-locate the birds and to try to find their nest, however, only the female was found. Photographs taken at the time were later examined by W. Earl Godfrey who verified my identification.

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.**



Wilson's Phalarope

Doug Gilroy

range and suggests the possibility of their having nested.

¹GODFREY, W. E. 1966. *The birds of Canada*. Bull. 203. Biol. Ser. 73. Nat. Mus. of Can. 428 p.

²NERO, R. W. 1963. *Birds of the Lake Athabasca region, Saskatchewan*. Sask. Nat. Hist. Soc. Regina, Sask. Spec. Pub. 5. 143 p.

³PREBLE, E. A. 1908. *A biological investigation of the Athabasca-Mackenzie region*. U.S. Dept. Agric. N. Am. Fauna Ser. 27. 574 p.

GREAT GRAY OWL IMPALED ON BARBED WIRE

by R. W. NERO*

The seriousness with which ornithologists view mortality factors and the scarcity of records of keen-sighted owls becoming caught on barbed wire is indicated by two separate accounts published in the December, 1973, *Wilson Bulletin*. In these two cases, adult Great Horned Owls were involved and both were alive when found. One was impaled on four barbs in its eye; though part of the fence wire

was cut out and the embedded portion was removed by a veterinarian, the bird died two days later. This was in Missouri. In the second incident, observed in Pennsylvania, an owl had become impaled by the skin at the base of one wing; the wing bone was broken and the wing was almost severed.

The following report of entrapment of a Great Gray Owl is likely the first of its kind. This species is known to suffer unusually high mortality when it occasionally ventures into settled regions. Great Gray Owls appeared in exceptionally high numbers over a large area of Manitoba in the winter of 1973/74 and both road kills and gunning kills have been reported.

In early March, 1974, Conservation Officer Robert J. Buck, Pine Falls (about 50 miles northeast of Winnipeg), reported that a local resident had released a live Great Gray Owl from a barbed wire fence. When contacted the following day he visited the site, tracked the wounded bird across the snow for a half mile, captured it and eventually sent it to Winnipeg. Though efforts were made by Chris Ridley, Birdwarren Sanctuary, to repair the superficial damage to its wing, the bird died. The owl, an adult female, according to Spencer G. Sealy is now a scientific study specimen in the collection of the Zoology Museum, University of Manitoba.

Because of the unusual nature of this incident, I wrote to Mrs. Elsie Carlson, who had found and rescued the owl, and she kindly supplied the following details of the event which happened on February 26, 1974.

"I was looking from my kitchen window in our mobile home which is nestled in a bluff of trembling aspen (poplar) and birch, just off P.T.H. No. 11 highway. I noticed a black object near a fence. The background was all deep snow and the black object aroused my curiosity. My husband and I then both observed the black object with a pair of binoculars. The object suddenly took the shape of a large bird and it seemed to be struggling. It was much too large to be a raven so I decided to investigate further.

*546 Coventry Road,
Winnipeg, Manitoba.