

Sight record of Red Knot for Bolivia

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ON THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 2, 1983, a single Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*), was discovered by the author and Anne Dreesen at a small Andean lake just southeast of La Cumbre pass, Department of La Paz, Bolivia. The lake, about 200 meters long and surrounded by steep, grassy slopes, lies at an elevation of 4643 meters, about 27 kilometers north-northeast of the capital city of La Paz.

Despite cold temperatures and up to 15 centimeters of snow on the surrounding ground, the immediate shore of the lake was alive with birds. We recorded several species of waterfowl, four species of shorebirds, a gull, two species of furnariids, two species of flycatchers, and two species of finches. The Red Knot was observed on and off during a two-hour period as it fed along the snow-ringed shore in the company of four Baird's Sandpipers (*C. bairdii*). Although skittish, it allowed us at times to approach to within about 10 meters. We were able to note the bird's larger

size in comparison to the Baird's Sandpipers, its basically gray coloration, black bill and dark-olive legs, and, when it flew, the grayish white rump. It seemed to be in worn juvenal plumage, with some subterminal black bands visible on the feathers of the mantle.

This is apparently the first record of this species for Bolivia (Meyer de Schauensee 1970, Blake 1977). Red Knots migrate and winter chiefly along the Atlantic coast of South America (Meyer de Schauensee 1970, Harrington 1982). While it is regular on the coast of Peru (Parker *et al.* 1982; *pers. obs.*) and rare on the coast of Chile (Johnson 1965), the species seems to be nearly unknown in the Andean region.

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