

Wilson's Phalarope in South America

*Raymond McNeil, Benoît Limoges,
Francine Mercier, and José Ramón Rodríguez S.*

ON SEPTEMBER 23, 1984, A WILSON'S Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*) in winter plumage was observed for about 10 minutes on a mud flat at the Chacopata Lagoon on the north side of the Araya Peninsula (10°41'N, 63°46'W), state of Sucre, in northeastern Venezuela. The bird was spinning round and round feeding in the wet mud. On May 17, 1985, a female bird in spring plumage was sighted on two occasions, observed for 10 and 30 minutes, respectively, and photographed swimming and feeding on a fresh water pond close to the Chacopata Lagoon.

P. tricolor is known to winter in western South America from Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Uruguay south through Chile and Argentina, and to occur as accidental in interior Brazil (Mato Grosso), and casually as far north as southern California and southern Texas (Meyer de Schauensee 1982; A.O.U. 1983). The species is considered as transient for the Pacific coast and the Cauca Valley in Colombia (Meyer de Schauensee 1964), and in western Ecuador (Meyer de Schauensee 1982). According to Bond (1979), vagrant individuals were reported for Little Exuma, Grand Caiman, Jamaica, Guadeloupe, Martinique, and Barbados in the West Indies. The species is not listed as oc-

curing in Venezuela nor in Trinidad and Tobago (Meyer de Schauensee and Phelps 1978; French 1973), but Altman and Parrish (1978) reported sight records of one individual near Chichiriviche, state of Falcon, on November 5 and 7, 1977.

As far as we know, the present photographic evidence represents the first confirmed record of Wilson's Phalarope for northern South America east of Colombia. Since the species is considered accidental during the boreal winter in the Mato Grosso region of Brazil (Meyer de Schauensee 1982), the Chacopata sightings may represent transient birds to and from interior Brazil. One copy of the color photograph has been deposited in the Colección Ornitológica Phelps in Caracas, and another copy is in the Ornithological Collection, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Montreal.

This note is the product of ecological research supported by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, the University of Montreal, and the University of Oriente.

LITERATURE CITED

ALTMAN, A. and C. PARRISH. 1978. Sight records of Wilson's Phalarope, Ruff, and

other shorebirds from Venezuela. *Am Birds* 32:309-310.

AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION 1983. Check-list of North American Birds. Sixth ed. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, DC.

BOND, J. 1979. Birds of the West Indies Collins, London, England.

FFRENCH, R. 1973. A guide to the birds of Trinidad and Tobago. Livingston Publ Co., Wynnewood, PA.

MEYER DE SCHAUENSEE, R. 1964. The birds of Colombia and adjacent areas of South and Central America. Livingston Publ. Co., Narberth, PA.

———. 1982. A guide to the birds of South America. Pan American Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation, Intercollegiate Press.

——— and W. H. PHELPS, Jr. 1978. A guide to the birds of Venezuela. Princeton Univ Press, Princeton, NJ.

——— *Centre de recherches écologiques de Montréal and Département de sciences biologiques, Université de Montréal, C.P. 6128, Succ. "A", Montréal, Québec H3C 3J7, Canada* (McNeil, Limoges, and Mercier), *Departamento de Biología, Universidad de Oriente, Cumaná, Sucre, Venezuela* (Rodríguez S)