

FIRST NESTING RECORDS OF WILSON'S PHALAROPE IN ARIZONA

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Wilson's Phalaropes (*Phalaropus tricolor*) nest commonly throughout much of the Great Plains and Great Basin regions of the U.S. and Canada as far south as the central parts of Utah and Nevada and south-central California (American Ornithologists' Union, Check-list of North American birds, 1957). Prior to 1981, however, this species had never been reported to nest in Arizona. This note documents the nesting of Wilson's Phalaropes at Pintail Lake in southern Navajo County, Arizona, during 1981 and 1982.

Pintail Lake (elevation 1937 m) was created in 1977 by the U.S. Forest Service with sewage effluent from the city of Show Low, 4.7 km to the southwest. While studying duck nesting at Pintail Lake from 1979 through 1982, I observed other wildlife using the lake. In 1980, the first year that Pintail Lake received sewage effluent, I saw Wilson's Phalaropes there in the spring and fall but found no nests. On 15 June 1981, however, I flushed male Wilson's Phalaropes from two nests on islands that had been constructed for nesting ducks. In 1982, I flushed a male phalarope from a nest on an island on 2 June and another from a nest along the mainland shoreline on 10 June. Each of the four nests contained four eggs. The nest on the mainland was later deserted before the eggs hatched. No eggs or shells remained near the three other nests after they had terminated and so I was unable to determine if they had hatched or had been destroyed by predators. I suspect that the remaining 1982 nest hatched, however, because during a period of approximately 3 weeks after termination a male Wilson's Phalarope often hovered over my head and called when I was near the island where the nest had been located. Höhn (Auk 84:220-244, 1967) and Johns (Auk 86:660-670, 1969) noted similar behavior in male Wilson's Phalaropes that were brooding young.

Aquatic insects were unusually abundant at Pintail Lake and this food source was probably a primary attractant for the Wilson's Phalaropes and other water birds that visited there. Wetmore (U.S. Dept. Agriculture Bull. No. 1359, 1925) found that water boatmen (Corixidae) and midges (Chironomidae) were the two most commonly occurring food items in his sample of 106 Wilson's Phalaropes. These two taxa were particularly abundant at Pintail Lake.

At 34°18'N latitude, Pintail Lake is the southern-most location of Wilson's Phalarope nesting that has been reported. The nearest known nesting locality is Bluewater Lake, New Mexico, 206.4 km to the northeast (Kaufman, Hubbard and Witzman, Am. Birds 34:918-920, 1980).

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