

marked eggs. Incubation lasts up to three weeks, and the precocial young can swim immediately after hatching. Males may adopt orphans, and distraction displays involve partial extension of their wings.

Red-necked Phalaropes may feed while wading or walking, and sometimes take flying insects with "flutter-leaps," but they primarily forage while swimming. They eat mostly aquatic insects, zooplankton, and crustaceans, for which they forage by spinning like a top on the water surface, presumably to stir up bottom water in the vortex.

Although they rarely pass by our shores in breeding plumage, the sight of a flock of these dainty specks on the ocean surface or simply flying by, makes a day of pelagic birding very worthwhile.

W. E. Davis, Jr.

ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST

Paul Donahue's artwork has frequently appeared on *Bird Observer's* cover, much to our delight. In late 1991 Teresa Wood and Paul began construction of a rain forest canopy walkway at the Amazon Center for Environmental Education and Research (ACEER) off the Rio Napo in the Department of Loreto in northeastern Peru, finally finishing it in April 1994. This canopy walkway, the world's longest, is 450 meters long and 36 meters above the ground at its highest point. It connects thirteen large, canopy-emergent trees, with observation platforms in each tree, and is constructed of aluminum ladders, steel cable, polyester rope, and wooden planks. From late 1992 to 1994 they also worked as the Resident Directors of the ACEER facility.

After a winter in Paraguay painting and training Paraguayan biologists in methods to reach the rain forest canopy, in early June 1995 Teresa and Paul started construction of two new canopy walkways in the rain forests of the Fila Chonta in Puntarenas Province of western Costa Rica. Paul can be reached at P.O. Box 554, Machias, Maine 04654.

The Red-necked Phalarope drawing first appeared in a catalog of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc. (VENT). Victor Emanuel has kindly given *Bird Observer* permission to use this drawing. VENT conducts birding tours around the world. Their address is P.O. Box 33008, Austin, Texas 78764.

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