

SEASONALITY OF SUMMER HABITAT AND SOCIAL SYSTEM OF RED PHALAROPES

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ABSTRACT.—Polyandry has long been suspected in phalaropes. Conclusive evidence has only recently been given for one species, the Northern Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*). In this paper, we present the first evidence for polyandry in the Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*). This phenomenon has never been documented in the Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*). Polyandry, in general, seems to be found where males assist with incubation, excess males are available in the population, and sufficient food resources can be mobilized to produce multiple clutches. This is also true for phalaropes. Intensive banding studies at Barrow, Alaska, indicate that only a small percentage of the population is site-faithful. Phalaropes are apparently not "bound" to a nesting area and are thus free to seek out the most productive areas for breeding.

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