

(Linsley and Carpelan 1961). The Salton Sea (salinity 41‰), whose ecology is changing rapidly (Skrove 1986), may soon become too salty or polluted to maintain fish populations. If, as at other hypersaline lakes, this results in the establishment of brine fly and brine shrimp populations, the Sea might develop into a molting area in addition to its use as a wintering area. Given the grebes' reluctance to fly, the availability of year-round food there, in a saline lake adjacent to freshwater nesting areas, could set the stage for the evolution of a population or even a new species of flightless grebe.

Gaps in our knowledge of Wilson's Phalarope biology include the distribution, importance, and stability of staging areas, especially in the eastern part of the range, and the relative abundance of age and sex classes at different staging areas. Why do adult males and juveniles predominate at Lake Abert when adult females prevail at Mono Lake? How do juveniles, which by-pass saline lakes on their first migration, find these areas in subsequent years? Does the rate of salt-gland maturation affect the distribution of age classes on the wintering grounds? There are no data to test whether flocks at highly saline lakes on the altiplano are dominated by adults, although specimens taken elsewhere in South America show a preponderance of young (Appendix V).

Finally, I hope to have shown that many interesting questions remain for those interested in the biology of salt lakes and their avifaunas. While studies of individual lakes will be valuable, it should be obvious that from a bird's viewpoint these lakes represent an interconnected series of salty oases. Thus, our understanding is likely to be advanced most rapidly through broad, long-term, and comparative studies of these dynamic and evolving habitats.

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