WILDERNESS IMAGES

The Great Sand Dunes. On the eastern side of the remote Colorado high-mountain San Luis Valley, between the Blanca Massif and Crestone Needle, lie the Great Sand Dunes. A combination of opposing winds, a huge supply of sand from the valley floor, and the sand recycling action of the nearby creeks, are all part of the reason these are the tallest dunes in North America, dramatically rising to up to 750 feet from the valley floor. The dunes cover approximately 39 square miles and offer opportunities to hike, backpack, sand sled, picnic, and camp. © Photo by Peter Kummerfeldt, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Wilson's Phalarope. This breed of phalaropes is the largest of the species. They feed by spinning in circles on the water to bring food items to the surface. Like the other phalaropes, sex roles are somewhat reversed. Female phalaropes are the more brightly plumaged of the two sexes, and after the females lay eggs, they begin migrating southward, leaving incubation of eggs to the male. They are listed on the Audubon watch list as a species-at-risk. Much of their prairie breeding habitat has been lost due to the destruction and draining of marshes. © Peter Kummerfeldt, Colorado Springs, Colorado.