

## MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

SCOTT HECKER's *Screech Owl*, which graces the front of October's *Bird Observer*, is the second of this young artist's drawings to appear on our cover. A fusion of two interests occurred early in Scott's childhood in Olmsted Falls, Ohio, that has determined his adult career--an enthusiasm for the natural world, especially birds, and a talent for art. His artistic heritage was fostered in preschool days by his art-teacher grandmother (who at 85 is still an active watercolorist) and by the portfolio of artwork left by his artist grandfather. Scott recalls making at an early age an extensive set of colored-pencil sketches of ducks for his father, a hunter and naturalist, and learning all of the duck names in the process. The hours after classes in high school were devoted to exploring the wildlife marshes along Lake Erie in the company of his ninth grade biology teacher. This further focused his interest on natural history so that he spent all of his time in art classes on wildlife subjects.

Scott graduated from Prescott College in Arizona in 1979 with a dual major in natural history and art. While still a college student, he directed an environmental education program in Ontario, Canada, and produced for the National Park Service wildlife drawings to illustrate trail guides for the Grand Canyon National Park and a book on bears for Yellowstone Park. He has taught classes in biological illustration in college and graduate school. Thesis research on the freshwater wetlands of Belize earned Scott his master's degree in the field of natural resource management at Antioch University in New Hampshire. He is at present coordinator of the Coastal Breeding Bird Program for Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS), is particularly concerned with tern colonies, and also leads natural history tours to Belize for the society.

The Green Briar Nature Center in Sandwich held an exhibit of Scott's artwork in June and July 1988, and a number of pieces were also on view at The Old House on Main Street in Hyannis. His work will be on display in Marshfield at the MAS South Shore Regional office from November 15 through January. A number of Scott's wildlife drawings, some of them done as a youngster, have been used as notecard illustrations or sold as prints. He likes to work in pen-and-ink on scratchboard and especially enjoys printmaking (the fine art process). He is now applying his talents to the media of watercolor and oils for depicting wildlife subjects.

Scott resides in Marshfield with his wife Ann Prince Hecker, who is a writer and assistant editor of the MAS publication *Sanctuary*. Inquiries about commission work, future exhibits, or sales should be addressed to him at the Conservation Department, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, MA 01773.

Dorothy R. Arvidson