

MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

BARRY W. VAN DUSEN is a wildlife artist who lives in Princeton, Massachusetts, with his wife Lisa, not far from Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary. He is a native of Maine who grew up in the Sebago Lake area and early in childhood developed an interest in natural history. Since high school, this interest has become increasingly focused on birds. An artistic talent, apparent early in life, was encouraged by his parents (father was an engineering designer). In high school Barry decided to become an artist. To that end, he completed a four-year study in visual design at Southeastern Massachusetts University, a broad program founded on a traditional art education.

Ten years ago, Barry began his independent professional career, starting as a commercial artist. He has done major illustrations for Genrad, Digital, Scandinavian Design, and American Optical companies. However, in recent years, he has turned his attention to natural history subjects, especially birds. For Massachusetts Audubon Society he has illustrated and created brochures and posters and produced the artwork for field guides, books, and for the society's publication *Sanctuary*. Some of these pictures have, in turn, appeared in the pages of *Audubon*, *Wildbird*, *The Boston Globe*, and *Bird Observer*. He illustrated Richard Walton's book *Bird Finding in New England* (published by Godine) and has produced the artwork for two forthcoming books, *A Naturalist's Guide to New England* by Christopher Leahy and *Birding Cape Cod*, a manuscript produced by the Cape Cod Bird Club. He is currently illustrating a pocket guide to the natural history of Belize.

Barry is dedicated to field sketching, preferring to work from life whenever possible, and keeps several sketchbooks active at any one time. He has gained inspiration from the works of Eric Ennion, John Busby, and Lars Jonsson—all advocates of working directly from the living bird. Many of Barry's field sketches were featured in the April 1989 issue of *Habitat: Journal of the Maine Audubon Society*, and his painting of Laughing Gulls adorned the cover.

The pen-and-ink drawing of fresh-plumaged young Least Sandpipers on our cover was produced from a field sketch made in early September of 1987 at Bourne on Cape Cod and is the second cover the artist has contributed to *Bird Observer*.

Barry's pictures have been exhibited at galleries throughout New England. In October 1989, his work will be on view at Maine Audubon Society in Falmouth, Maine. If you would like to be notified of future exhibits, please drop a note to him at 13 Radford Road, Princeton, MA 01541.

Dorothy R. Arvidson