

MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

Last November when the editors saw Paul Donahue's sketch of Common Redpolls (*Carduelis flammea*) in the 1990 catalog of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, they coveted the drawing for *Bird Observer's* February 1990 cover. A prompt telephone call to Paul in Maine surprisingly reached him—he is regularly away in South America painting, researching, or leading tours. Paul agreed to let us use the picture but told us that we needed the permission of Victor Emanuel who owned the artwork. Victor's schedule—he too is more often than not on the road in foreign parts—placed him at that moment on a boat off the coast of Argentina, leading a birding tour to the Falkland Islands. However, a call to Texas on VENT's 800 line to ask when he would return produced the welcome response, "Would you like to speak to him?" We had lucked out again—Victor's trip had been postponed. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Paul Donahue and to Victor Emanuel for generously contributing the cover artwork for the lead issue of *Bird Observer's* eighteenth year in print.

Paul Donahue, a native of Winchester, was for several years an intern at Manomet Bird Observatory. He has traveled extensively in Central and South America, spending about half of each year there since 1972. Most of his time in South America has been spent at the Explorer's Inn, a lodge in the Tambopata Nature Reserve in the upper Amazon basin of eastern Peru, where he has been tape-recording bird vocalizations and working on a long-term survey of the avifauna. Paul's last two field seasons at Tambopata have been spent working in the rain forest canopy, where he has constructed observation platforms as high as one hundred and twenty-five feet above the ground in the canopy of twenty large, emergent trees. The platforms are reached via climbing ropes and rope ascenders. He plans to continue this canopy exploration over the next several years, eventually producing a series of paintings of birds of that canopy habitat. In addition to tropical birds, Paul's favorite subjects are shorebirds and raptors. His paintings have appeared in *Wilson Bulletin*, *American Birds*, and other periodicals. The pen-and-ink drawing of redpolls was done in 1988. The artist now lives for part of the year in Machias, Maine 04654 (P.O. Box 554).

Victor Emanuel organized VENT, Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, fifteen years ago and has assembled an international roster of eminent tour leaders: Rick Bowers, Rhett Butler (Zimbabwe), Kim Eckert, Robert Fleming (Nepal), Steve Hilty, Kenn Kaufman, Jeri Langham, Ted Parker, Robert Ridgely, Len Robinson (Australia), and others. An acknowledged world conservationist, Victor was invited in 1989 by HRH Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands to join the Achievement Board of the prestigious International Council for Bird Preservation. VENT's address is P.O. Box 33008, Austin, TX 78764 (800-328-VENT).

Dorothy R. Arvidson