

December 31, 1978. A strictly nocturnal bird, the owl was seen by many until dusk fell, then was never seen again. Unfortunate birders who were not present that memorable day can only yearn for the years long ago when this diminutive owl would make at least minor incursions into our area.

Richard A. Forster

MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

The Boreal Owl on the cover is the work of Paul K. Donahue, who was very generous to *Bird Observer* in 1990, permitting us to use his pictures of Common Redpolls, Black-bellied Plover, and Peregrine Falcon on three covers.

Paul is an acclaimed bird artist who grew up in Winchester and received his training in ornithology at Manomet, in bird-related travel, as a tour guide throughout North America and Ireland and over much of Central and South America, and as a resident naturalist for six seasons at Explorer's Inn in the Tambopata Nature Reserve. He now paints throughout the year, dividing his time between Machias, Maine, and Peru, where he has carried on studies of the canopy birds at Tambopata and at Manu Lodge in Manu National Park, producing a series of paintings of the birds of that habitat. As part of these studies he erected observation platforms (reached by climbing ropes and rope ascenders) as high as a hundred and twenty-five feet above ground. Having hoisted many intrepid Manu visitors to these platforms for close looks at guans, curassows, and monkeys, he now looks forward to erecting a 1.5-kilometer walkway through the treetops to offer people a memorable canopy experience.

Paul has published a number of papers on the distribution and behavior of neotropical birds, but he is perhaps best known for his authoritative depictions of raptors and shorebirds. His work has appeared in *Wilson Bulletin*, *American Birds*, and other publications, and some of his best drawings illustrate the catalogs of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc. (VENT).

As with the Redpoll cover of the February 1990 issue, we wish to thank the owner of the original drawing, Victor Emanuel, president of VENT, for giving us permission to use Paul's Boreal Owl. We are grateful also to Roberta Hill, art director of VENT, for preparing and sending us a fine copy of the original drawing. Victor Emanuel started VENT sixteen years ago and now offers natural history and birding tours throughout the world. A birder for forty years with a B.A. in zoology and botany and an M.A. in government, Victor has an international reputation as a conservationist. He has assembled a well-trained, conservation-oriented, and very prestigious group of tour leaders—David Bishop, Kim Eckert, Jeff Gordon, Peter Harrison, Steve Hilty, Jeri and Gary Langham, Peter Matthiessen, Ted Parker, Douglas Pratt, Robert Ridgely, Len Robinson, David Wolf, and Kevin Zimmer, to name a few.

Dorothy R. Arvidson