

## ABOUT THE COVER: COMMON TERN AND WILSON'S WARBLER

Common Terns and Wilson's Warblers, nest, chicks, and adults. One could legitimately ask, what forces conspired to bring these two very different bird species together on the same plate? One guess could be that the picture was intended to illustrate the life cycles of a species with altricial young (the warbler) compared with one with precocial young (the tern), a good subject for any ornithology textbook. Or perhaps the intention was to compare a landbird species with a bird of the seashore. Or maybe the artist just likes grouping species that have black caps on their heads.

Any of the above guesses, while each logical, would be wrong. The picture is intended to illustrate the symbolic species of two venerable American ornithological organizations, the Wilson Ornithological Society (Wilson's Warbler) and the Association of Field Ornithologists (Common Tern). The picture was created by noted wildlife artist Gordon Morrison as a banquet gift for each registrant at the joint meeting of the WOS and AFO which was held from May 31 through June 2, 1990 at Wheaton College in Norton, MA. In addition to the symposium on the Role of Amateurs in Ornithology (the papers of which appear in this issue) and another on American Avian Zoogeography, the meeting featured fifty-nine contributed papers and posters.

Gordon Morrison's vibrant picture illustrates the life cycles of the species that symbolize each organization. The picture conveys a sense of balance and growth, a fitting description of the two societies, both of which have contributed substantially, as amateurs and professionals alike, to the growth and maturity of American ornithology.

John C. Kricher

## MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

*Bird Observer's* cover was last graced with Gordon Morrison's artwork in December 1988. He continues to provide illustrations for periodicals, such as *Bird Watcher's Digest*, and books, such as the Peterson's *Field Guide to Eastern Forests* and the forthcoming *Field Guide to Western Forests*, both authored by John C. Kricher. His exhibits and collections have appeared throughout New England and in Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania, and Florida. Recently, he provided twenty-four pieces of artwork for the Tropical Rainforest Exhibit of the Missouri Botanical Gardens. From April 7 to June 30, 1991, Gordon will be having an exhibit at the Massachusetts Audubon Society Moose Hill Wildlife Sanctuary in Sharon, MA, celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary. If readers are interested in purchasing limited editions of the cover print (\$15 per 6.25" x 8.25" print), please contact Gordon Morrison at 52 Bulfinch Street, North Attleboro, MA 02760.

Martha J. Steele