

fledge from a parasitized nest. Vireo young fledge in ten to twelve days, but sometimes receive extended parental care for over a month. The male will often continue to care for the fledged young after the female has started raising a second brood. Black-capped Vireos are insectivorous, preferring caterpillars gleaned from leaves. They are active foragers, sometimes hanging upside down, like chickadees, from leaf clusters.

Local cowbird control programs have been fairly successful in reducing brood parasitism in several study areas in Texas and Oklahoma, but these measures are expensive and only locally effective. One can only hope that habitat preservation and brood parasitism controls will be widely applied, allowing birders to continue to enjoy these magnificent little vireos into the indefinite future.

W. E. Davis, Jr.

### MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

*Bird Observer* welcomes Rick Frey of Norman, Oklahoma, as the artist of this issue's cover, the Black-capped Vireo. A native Oklahoman, Rick's works are on permanent display at the Artisan 9 gallery in Norman. He is a self-taught artist who began drawing wildlife at an early age. His first love is birds, and he spends as much time observing birds as he does drawing birds. He says, "I believe it is very important to become as familiar as possible with your subject, especially if the artist chooses a realistic type of expression." George Miksch Sutton was a major influence on Rick's work with birds and paintings.

Rick also works with western themes, alone and in combination with wildlife. He enjoys commercial success mostly through his paintings and prints, but also does graphic design work, such as logos, silk screen printing, and special design projects for nature and wildlife organizations. Rick can be reached at P.O. Box 720576, Norman, OK 73070.

M. Steele