

Puffins tend to be tame and suffered population declines in the nineteenth century from egging and overhunting. Although many of their colonies have stabilized, many puffins are killed each year in fishing nets, and overfishing can reduce the local food supply and disrupt reproduction. Atlantic Puffins have been reintroduced to several islands off the Maine coast where they had previously bred. This ambitious program, sponsored in part of the National Audubon Society, involves translocating and hand-rearing puffin chicks from established colonies to islands where puffins previously bred. Puffins tend to be faithful to their natal island, and hence some of the translocated chicks have returned to breed at their new home. The National Audubon Society sponsors boat trips to Eastern Egg Rock and Seal Island, Maine, where puffins have been successfully reintroduced. In addition, several commercial trips are available which allow viewing puffins at close range from blinds on Machias Seal Island, Maine. The photographic possibilities are virtually endless, and few ornithological treats can match a visit to a puffin colony. It can only be hoped that a global conservation strategy will ensure the continued survival of these marvelous birds.

W. E. Davis, Jr.

### MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

Paul Donahue's artwork has been widely published in the bird literature. Paul spends about half of the year leading tours or working in the rainforest canopy of Manu Lodge in Manu National Park, Peru. The remainder of the year he resides in Machias, Maine, where he paints during the winter after a fall of hawkwatching. Paul can be reached at P.O. Box 554, Machias, Maine 04654.

The Atlantic Puffin drawing first appeared in a catalog of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc. (VENT). This is the fourth time that Victor Emanuel has kindly given Bird Observer permission to use one of Paul's drawings that had previously appeared in his catalog. VENT conducts birding tours around the world. Their address is P.O. Box 33008, Austin, Texas 78764.

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