

## MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

**JULIE ZICKEFOOSE** is a free-lance artist and naturalist who is devoted to the study, conservation, and appreciation of birds. Educated at Harvard University in biology and art, she worked for the Nature Conservancy for six years before turning to art as a full-time career. While with the Nature Conservancy she created the Least Tern/Piping Plover Recovery Program to answer an urgent need for conservation of these two threatened sea- and shorebirds in Connecticut. She continues to work on behalf of plovers and terns and helps to maintain a seventy-box bluebird trail, which produced 225 fledglings in 1968. Rehabilitation of injured and orphaned songbirds occupies much of each summer.

A self-taught painter, Julie Zickefoose's formal art training consists of a year of studio drawing at Harvard. However, regular studio sessions with models and daily sketching of wild birds and animals continue her education. She paints in watercolor from sketches made directly from living birds. Binoculars and a spotting scope allow her to draw wild subjects in every possible pose from a distance sufficient to keep them at their ease. It is these studies which give life, accuracy, and feeling to her paintings. While the majority of modern wildlife artists rely heavily on photographs for reference, Julie feels strongly that only life studies can make lively paintings.

Julie Zickefoose's work has been exhibited at the Harvard University Museum of Comparative Zoology, the Peabody Museum of Salem, the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University, the Memorial University of Newfoundland, the New England Hawkwatch Convention at Connecticut College, and at the 80th International Ornithological Convention in Ottawa, at which she was one of only two artists participating. Awards include a Radcliffe Travelling Fellowship to paint birds of Amazonian Brazil and an International Council for Bird Preservation stipend. Paintings, drawings, and articles by her have appeared in *American Birds*, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, *Bird Observer*, and numerous publications of the U. S. and Canadian Wildlife Services. She also leads field trips and lectures on bird art and conservation throughout Connecticut and is currently illustrating *Birds of Insular Newfoundland* and a book on Ospreys.

Julie's Black-throated Green Warbler is the second Zickefoose creation to appear on the cover of this publication, the first being a black-and-white sketch of a Song Sparrow in June of 1987. The original of the warbler on this month's cover is a watercolor and is reproduced with the artist's permission from a black-and-white photograph of the original.

Dorothy R. Arvidson