

Bohemian Waxwings, like Cedar Waxwings, are opportunistic foragers that utilize a wide variety of food types. In the summer they feed on insects, berries, fruits, and flowers, but in winter, berries are their preferred food. They also have been reported eating tree sap, bugs, and seeds. In summer, similar to flycatchers, they hawk insects from perches. They are reputed to be exceptional gluttons, often filling their crops to capacity and, between meals, eating large quantities of snow. One report claims that they may eat two or three times their body weight in berries in a day!

When the cold winter winds sweep down from Canada, watch those flocks of Cedar Waxwings and robins closely, and check out any local patch of shrubbery with a good supply of berries. Eventually you may be lucky enough to find a Bohemian Waxwing, a species of striking beauty and a rarity worth searching for.

W. E. D.

MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

We are delighted to have another Barry Van Dusen drawing appear on *Bird Observer's* cover. Barry is a wildlife artist with a growing reputation. He was recently named the Audubon Alliance Artist of the Year for 1992, and his work was included in the important international show, "Birds in Art," at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau, Wisconsin, in October 1991.

Barry lives in Princeton, Massachusetts, and has been an independent professional artist for nearly fifteen years. For the past eight years, he has worked closely with Audubon societies and conservation organizations throughout New England. His work has been featured in books, magazines, posters, and brochures involving many aspects of natural history, although his favorite subjects are birds. Among the titles Barry has illustrated is *Birding Cape Cod* (1990) and the forthcoming *Birds of Massachusetts*, authored by Richard Veit and Wayne Petersen.

Barry prefers to work from life, and spends many hours studying and drawing his subjects in the field. In November 1991, Barry spoke at the Third Annual Massachusetts Birders' Meeting in Shrewsbury on sketching in the field. His field work is an inspiration and reference for more finished pictures. "After an outdoor experience fills me with wonder and excitement," he says, "I try to determine the essentials of what I've seen and felt. I try to recreate the scene directly and economically, doing my best to preserve the spark and power of the original moment."

Barry currently has an exhibit of his artwork (through January 1992) at the Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary, 414 Massasoit Road, Worcester, Massachusetts. Some of Barry's pieces are also exhibited at least through January 1992 at the Sterling Mill Works, 15 Washacum Street, Sterling, Massachusetts. For future scheduled exhibits or additional information, Barry can be reached at 13 Radford Road, Princeton, Massachusetts 01541. M. J. S.