

MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

Barry W. Van Dusen's exquisite artwork has often been seen on *Bird Observer's* cover, and he recently mesmerized the audience at a Nuttall Ornithological Club meeting at Harvard University with his field sketches, descriptions of how he goes about his craft, and breathtaking closeups of some of his paintings. *Bird Observer* is very grateful to Barry for his contributions of artwork. Barry's work will be in the Lyme Invitational Wildlife in Art Show at the Lyme Art Association Gallery in Old Lyme, CT, on June 5 and 6, 1993. For more information on upcoming exhibits or artwork available for sale, Barry can be reached at 13 Radford Road, Princeton, Massachusetts, 01541. M. Steele

AT A GLANCE February 1993 _____ Wayne R. Petersen



Photos: S. Perkins (upper r.), W. Ervin (lower r.), and W. Petersen (l). Courtesy of MAS.

The twentieth anniversary issue of *Bird Observer* offered three "At A Glance" mystery photographs. Rather than depicting regularly occurring Massachusetts birds, the species shown in the pictures were from the list of *Best Birds in Massachusetts: 1973-1992* (see page 22 of the February 1993 issue). The photographs illustrate several relevant points about identifying a possible vagrant species: 1) some vagrants may be easily identified with the assistance of any of the leading North American field guides; 2) some vagrants may not safely be identified from photographs or in the field, even with the best of field guides; and 3) some vagrants may not be shown in North American field guides.