## **Artist Statement**

## **Tanya Piatz**

My focus is to raise awareness for habitat conservation and how that directly impacts the variety of species found in the environment. I do this by illustrating birds that can be found commonly in the backyard, however, still seeing a declining population as well as lesser known species that are on the species of special concerns list.

I also want to narrate the complexity of how our land in Minnesota is intertwined with South America, Canada and everywhere in between. What we do to our habitat directly effects the population of birds that migrate to these lands and vice versa. I hope to raise awareness for the need of native habitat for the entire health of a community. I believe nature is healing and to ensure we encourage the health and future, we need to make efforts in nurturing nature by protecting native habitats.