



**THOMAS J. BISHOP**

Resides: Scottsdale, Arizona  
b. 1940, Iowa, USA

*Lucero's Saddle*  
Steller's jay  
Acrylic, 21.6 x 30

*Sitting on the wheel of an antique wagon at Loose Arrow's Nursery in Lake City, Colorado, is an old weathered saddle. It had caught my eye several times and I knew in my heart that it was a painting waiting to happen, my dilemma was that somehow it needed a wildlife connection. Then one day, as I was again viewing the saddle, a high country denizen, a Steller's jay, flew up. Like most jays, they are brazen raiders of camp grounds and picnic tables. This one had just grabbed a piece of popcorn from a table at Poker Alice's, a near-by restaurant, and its timely arrival instantly completed the painting in my mind.*