

MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

JULIE ZICKEFOOSE has created our covers for two issues in a row, and the pencil drawing of young bluebirds is the third illustration from this Connecticut artist and writer to appear on the front of *Bird Observer*. Published work by the artist has appeared in *American Birds*, on the cover of *Bird Watcher's Digest*, and in other wildlife periodicals. She is illustrating *Birds of Insular Newfoundland* and a book on Ospreys, and her paintings and drawings have been exhibited in New England and in Newfoundland.

Julie is also a wildlife rehabilitator and has written that the young birds on the cover are

... two orphaned bluebirds I raised last season (1988). Cobalt is on the left, Sapphire on the right. Their parents were killed by a cat in Durham, CT, and they were brought to us near death from hunger and exposure. But puppy chow and mealworms brought them around and they were given the run of the bedroom. They learned to come to my hand for food and soon knew how to pick up their own crickets and mealworms we tossed onto the rug for them.

I turned them loose here in the yard, where our resident bluebird family had recently fledged their brood. To my dismay, one young male took offense and repeatedly attacked Cobalt and Sapphire. Sapphire disappeared, but Cobalt survived and joined up with the resident family.

Well into the fall, I would call her name when I saw the flock, and she would drop back and circle over me. She had a distinctive three-part call note that I'll listen for this spring (1989).

Those interested in information about exhibits and commissioned work should write her at Box 84, Hadlyme, CT 06439.

Dorothy R. Arvidson