

EDITOR'S PAGE

OUR NEW COVER

The Hudsonian Godwit is a representative of an intrinsic aspect of Massachusetts bird life. Reduced almost to extinction during the market gunning period, this species has been slowly regaining its former population size. Over the last 60 years Monomoy Island has served as the major United States staging area of Hudsonian Godwits. Newburyport and Plum Island are also great vantage points for this species.

Our new cover, by Margaret La Farge of Connecticut, was chosen following a competition in which a dozen high quality designs were considered. Ms. La Farge, a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, is a great-granddaughter of the famous muralist John La Farge. She has worked extensively with watercolor, pen and ink, and engraving, and with wood, from which she creates larger-than-life herons, pelicans, and birds of prey. Her work has been exhibited in Providence, R.I., Lincoln, Mass., and Hartford and Essex Connecticut. Ms. La Farge is the illustrator of George Gaylord Simpson's Penguins: Past and Present, Here and There, and more recently, Watching Birds: An Introduction to Ornithology, by Roger F. Pasquier. Ms. La Farge has studied plumage and anatomy at the Peabody Museum of Natural History in New Haven, Connecticut. In addition to birds, she enjoys drawing wildflowers, sea life and landscapes.

PELAGIC TRIP TO GEORGES BANK, JUNE 19-20, 1978

Most New England birders are discouraged by the inaccessibility of the really good pelagic birding areas. This June, Bird Observer will sponsor a trip to the Soviet fishing fleet on the continental slope of Georges Bank, the most productive seabird region in the Northeast. The 100' Yankee Captain, with 48 bunks on board, will leave Gloucester for Georges Bank at 10 p.m. on June 19th and will return early in the morning (c. 2 a. m.) on June 21st, giving birders an entire day on the bank. The price is \$52; please send a \$25 deposit (refundable only in the case of foul weather cancellation) by APRIL 15th to:

ROBERT STYMEIST
46 BEAVER STREET
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02154

Leaders: Richard Veit and Robert Stymeist

Richard Veit spent June 1-14, 1977, in the area of Georges Bank, which we will be visiting, and observed the following: 300 Northern Fulmars, 20,000 Greater Shearwaters, 3,000 Sooty Shearwaters, Cory's Shearwaters, 50,000 Wilson's Storm Petrels, many Leach's Storm Petrels, 25 skuas (including at least 8 South Polar Skuas), 2-3 Long-tailed Jaegers and much more--virtually anything is possible.