

A TIME FOR CHANGE

The present issue of *The Chat* is unusually small because we are in the process of changing our schedule of publication. For many years the bulletin has been dated March, June, September, and December; but copies rarely have reached the readers less than a month late. The U.S. Postal Service has strict rules about the mailing of magazines, and the Postmaster at Tryon has advised us to change the wording of our statement of entry in order to avoid revocation of our second-class mailing permit. Beginning with this issue, *Chat* will be mailed quarterly with no months specified. For the convenience of our readers, the bulletins will be dated according to the season of publication—Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall. The staff will attempt to have issues in the mail regularly in January, April, July, and October. In the future, the Christmas Bird Count will appear in the Spring bulletin and the Spring Bird Count in the Fall, thus giving Harry LeGrand much needed additional time to prepare his copy. (Deadlines for local compilers remain the same.) Bob Teulings indicates that the new schedule will make it easier for him to continue handling editorial duties for both *Chat* and *American Birds*. Publishing the fourth number of each volume in October certainly will make life easier for the Editor, who finds it very difficult to compile the annual index during the rush of family activities between Thanksgiving and Christmas. We sincerely hope the new publication dates will enable all the staff members to do a better job for CBC.—EFP

A GLANCE AT THE PAST AND THE FUTURE

This is the forty-eighth issue of *Chat* to go to press with my name on the masthead. Looking back, I can see many things I would have done differently if I had known then what I know now; but mostly I see the names and faces of the hundreds of people who have devoted their time and talents to CBC during the past 12 years. I sincerely appreciate cooperation of all the staff members, club officers, authors, photographers, artists, and bird count compilers who have done their best to make *Chat* a useful and attractive journal.

Looking ahead, I can see a bright future for Carolina Bird Club and its publications, growth in membership, increased financial support for club projects, and larger attendance at meetings. And here I offer a word of caution. Let us take care that as the club grows we do not neglect extending a true spirit of friendship to our new members. The best thing about CBC meetings is the way our outstanding field observers take time to show inexperienced birders as many interesting species as possible and to offer tips on bird study. Members fortunate enough to own telescopes patiently share the view with all who want to look. Field trip leaders who can recognize most birds at a glance sometimes squeak until their jaws ache so a beginner can add a common species to his life list. Having benefited from such kindness myself, I hope that CBC's best birders will continue to be good teachers. The gentleman who let me look through his Balscope at Myrtle Beach in January of 1959 had no way of knowing he was befriending a potential editor of *Chat*. (A 28-year-old housewife, expecting my fourth child, and a college dropout, I was indeed a most unlikely candidate!)

Among today's beginning bird students are future bird club presidents, conservationists, zoology professors, editors of ornithological journals, authors and illustrators of nature books, and a new generation of dues paying members without whom there can be no CBC. New members are VIPs!—EFP