

New Editor for South Carolina Field Notes

Beginning with next issue, William Post succeeds Julian R. Harrison as editor of the South Carolina field notes for *Chat*. Dr. Post is the newly appointed Curator of Ornithology at the Charleston Museum. He is well known for his studies of the Seaside Sparrow in New York and Florida, and he has done extensive field work in the Caribbean.

Dr. Harrison, who has been associate GFN editor since June 1972, will continue as a member of the CBC Records Committee. During part of his 11-year editorship, Harrison has also served ably as a vice president of the club. Well done, Julian! We are grateful to you.—EFP

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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LARK SPARROW: Individuals were noted at Pea Island on 26 August (Allen Bryan) and at Portsmouth Island on 7 September (John Fussell).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: Dorothy Foy observed two at Oriental, N.C., on 8 November.

TV TOWER KILL: Jay Carter and Jim Parnell found 1300 birds of 51 species, including 26 species of warblers, killed at the WECT tower near White Lake, N.C., on the morning of 12 October. Highlights were a Black Rail, a Black-billed Cuckoo, five Gray-cheeked Thrushes, two Sharp-tailed Sparrows, six Seaside Sparrows, and the following warblers: two Golden-wingeds, one Swainson's, one Worm-eating, two Nashvilles, five Black-throated Greens, three Blackburnians, and four Bay-breasted.

COMMENTS ON SPRING REPORTS OF BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS: Claudia Wilds has expressed concern about the validity of the Baird's Sandpiper reported in the spring of 1982 at Pea Island (*Chat* 46:119). She is extremely knowledgeable on shorebird plumages, and she studied many skins of Baird's and White-rumped Sandpipers at the National Museum in Washington, D.C., examining in detail the description written in *The Chat* "Briefs for the Files." She concluded that: (1) the pale buffy ground color to the underparts is consistent with Baird's and very infrequent on spring White-rumped; (2) the streaks on the flanks are totally inconsistent with Baird's, but are present on all adult White-rumped; (3) the back pattern is inconsistent with either species in the spring; and (4) the black mid-vein in the tail does not rule out White-rumped, as some adults have this pattern.

Thus, there is concern by Wilds that the bird in question may have been a White-rumped, which is common in spring at Pea Island. The other spring report of Baird's in North Carolina (*Chat* 35:80) has details published, such as size approximately that of a Swamp Sparrow, that are not convincing, in my opinion. There is no specimen or photograph, or thoroughly described report of a Baird's in spring in North Carolina. The spring reports for South Carolina also should undergo closer and renewed examination. A sighting of this species in the spring in the Carolinas should be written up as a General Field Note for this journal; a complete description must be provided. Baird's *does* occur as a regular but rare fall migrant in the Carolinas, both inland and along the coast, but occurrences anywhere in eastern North America are extraordinary during the spring.—HEL