

The Chat

(USPS 101-200)

SUMMER 1985

Vol. 49

No. 3

Published by the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.

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THE CHAT is published quarterly by the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., with headquarters at the North Carolina State Museum, P.O. Box 27647, Raleigh, N.C. 27611. Second class postage paid at Raleigh, N.C. 27611. Subscription price \$10 per year.

PAGE CHARGES: Authors who have funds available for page charges are requested to remit same at the rate of \$40.00 per page. CBC Headquarters will provide statements required for your business records.

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OUR COVER—A Piping Plover incubates four eggs laid in a shell-lined scrape in the sand at Cape Hatteras, N.C. (Photo by James F. Parnell)