

# Concerning the Timeliness of Information in the 1970 Reprint Edition of "South Carolina Bird Life" by Sprunt and Chamberlain

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In 1970, when the University of South Carolina Press published a reprint with supplement of "South Carolina Bird Life" (Sprunt and Chamberlain 1970), it was erroneously styled a "Revised Edition." The only new material in this reprint of the original volume (Sprunt and Chamberlain 1949) was a seventy page supplement by E. Milby Burton of records through 1968.

None of the material in the text of the original publication was changed (Pages i-xx and 1-571), although the pages for the index were renumbered 643-655 rather than 573-585.

Unfortunately, some contributors to "The Chat" and other ornithological journals continue to make the mistake of assuming that the main text of the reprint reflects records through 1968 rather than 1948.

The index to the 1970 reprint does not include references to species included in the Burton supplement. Therefore, the reader must search through the species accounts for any new material on a given species.

It was a matter of great distress to Burnham Chamberlain that the 1970 reprint of "South Carolina Bird Life" was incorrectly called a revised edition. I had the pleasure of giving him a copy of a letter of April 24, 1984 from Robert T. King, Director of the University of South Carolina Press. Mr. King wrote, "You are correct in thinking that the 1970 edition should have been called a 'Reprint with Supplement'."

There are two more recent books which update information on the birds of South Carolina. "Birds of the Carolinas" (Potter et al. 1980) regrettably perpetuates the erroneous belief that the main text of the 1970 reprint of South Carolina Bird Life" was revised.

Post and Gauthreaux (1989) have attempted to produce a definitive list of the status of all South Carolina birds. In this task, they have succeeded admirably, although they are seeking comments for a revised edition.

It is to be hoped that future contributors to "The Chat" will be aware of the limitations to the data in the 1970 reprint of the 1949 text of "South Carolina Bird Life."

## LITERATURE CITED

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