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Fifty Years Ago in *The Chat*—September 1959

General Field Notes in the September 1959 issue included reports of a number of significant records. E. Milby Burnham collected an immature Eared Grebe at Charleston on 14 Jan 1959, the first state record for South Carolina. Peter Manigault observed a White-tailed Tropicbird 18 nautical miles SSE of Charleston on 29 May 1959, the third state record. Robert Soots, James Parnell, and John Funderburg observed a Ward's Great Blue Heron on 23 Jan 1959 in a shallow farm pond near Lake Wheeler, southwest of Raleigh. It was thought to be the first state record of this subspecies. John Hatcher reported a Mallard nest in Aiken County, SC that was apparently the first documented nesting in the state. Ernest Cutts reported that American Coots had appeared in the newly constructed 100-acre duck pond at Magnolia Gardens, and young were observed, but despite extensive searching an actual nest could not be found. At the time there was not yet a confirmed nest record in the state. H. A. Hesperheide, F. C. Richardson, W. F. Rountrey, and Paul Sykes observed a Ruff on 21 March 1959 by the Knotts Island Causeway in Currituck Co., NC. This was the second state record, the first having been one collected in Raleigh on 6 May 1892 by H. H. Brimley. Bill Joyner reported seeing a pair of Sooty Terns on 10 June 1959 on an island near Cape Lookout. They were behaving as if they were nesting, but he was unable to determine which, if any, nest belonged to them. The pair was still present on another visit on 4 July. Robert Soots reported observing a Gray Kingbird in Umstead State Park near Raleigh on 16 Apr 1959. It was observed at length that day, among a large wave of migrants, but the next day it and all of the other migrants were gone. A Bewick's Wren was banded in Hillsborough, NC on 23 Sept 1958. A male Bachman's Warbler returned 22 Apr 1959 to the spot where it was found the previous year, across the Ashley River from Charleston. It remained until at least 16 May and was "watched by scores". —Kent Fiala