

Fifty Years Ago in *The Chat*—December 1960

General Field Notes in the December 1960 issue of *The Chat* contained several significant reports. Gadwall and Ruddy Ducks had been found breeding at Bull's Island, SC, "far removed from from the normal nesting range". On 26 Aug 1960 a Parasitic Jaeger was found dead at the base of a TV tower near Raleigh, NC. In the summer of 1960, a small nesting colony of Least Terns was found on a small island off Snelgrove's Landing in Lake Murray, SC. At the same location, Spotted Sandpipers were found nesting; it was the first confirmed nesting record for the state. At the CBC Spring Meeting at High Hampton, NC, a pair of Brown Creepers was observed building a nest in the oak shingle siding of an unoccupied house. This was thought to be the "first nesting record for North Carolina in 25 years or more". A sight record of Northern Wheatear on the golf course at Charleston (SC) Country Club placed the species on the SC Hypothetical List. In Aiken, SC, John B. Hatcher reported a Kirtland's Warbler on 5 Oct 1960 and Common Redpolls in March 1960. A Lark Sparrow was found in Edisto Beach, SC in Oct 1960.

B. R. Chamberlain reported a careful analysis of observations of a Gull-billed Tern foraging at a pond near his house on Wadmalaw Island, SC. The tern would catch a large dragonfly or grasshopper and then leave. Based on flight direction and time to reappearance of 34–53 minutes he inferred that it was feeding young at a nest on Deveaux Bank, 6.7 miles away.

—*Kent Fiala, editor*