

Brewer's Blackbird: An adult male visited the feeder at Pea Island NWR, NC, Visitor Center, 11 Nov (Ricky Davis, W.O.W. participants).

Purple Finch: A female seen in a yard in Rodanthe, NC, 25 Sep (Henry & Elizabeth Link) was quite early. A noticeable irruption began in late October, with sightings made at feeders across our region (m. obs.). Interestingly, over five were seen in flight around Oregon Inlet, NC, 11–14 Nov (Ricky Davis, W.O.W. participants).

Pine Siskin: Also interesting were the 5–25 seen each morning in flight around Oregon Inlet, NC, 11–14 Nov (Ricky Davis, W.O.W. participants).

Fifty Years Ago in *The Chat*—March 1961

The March 1961 issue of *The Chat* was the first edited by David W. Johnston.

The report of the 1960 Christmas Count noted that although the previous year's count of 800,000 blackbirds at Greensboro had been regarded as enormous, it was modest in comparison to 1960's count of over a million blackbirds at Greensboro and 4.2 million at Clemson (the latter including 300,000 Rusty Blackbirds). The Clemson count also included eight Tree Sparrows.

In General Field Notes, a Glossy Ibis was reported in Greensboro in July 1960. It was thought to be the first piedmont record. Quite a number of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks (then called Fulvous Tree Ducks) were reported in 1960: three at Orton Plantation near Wilmington beginning in January 1960 and remaining for some months, eight in October on Currituck Sound, a flock of about 30 in November at Orton Plantation, nine in December at Lake Mattamuskeet, four or more in December near Lake Phelps, Washington Co., NC, 15 at Manteo in December, three at Hatteras Lighthouse in December, and one at the Savannah River Refuge in November and December. There had also been as many as 32 at the Savannah Refuge in late December 1959.

North Carolina's first Black-whiskered Vireo was picked up dead on the causeway to Wrightsville Beach, NC on 1 April 1960. It was noted that there had been strong winds blowing from the West Indies and Florida toward Georgia and the Carolinas in the preceding days.

—*Kent Fiala, editor (who became a birder 50 years ago this season)*