

## **Fifty Years Ago in *The Chat*—September 1961**

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Gilbert J. Bristow's President's Report reported that at the April meeting in Whiteville, all officers were re-elected and all committees were re-appointed. The present membership was "one of the largest in the history of the club, around 1250" [much larger than today's membership]. The financial condition of the club was sound. Other recent meetings had been at Cashiers in spring 1960, Blowing Rock in the fall, and Hilton Head Island in mid-winter with "good attendance". Attendance at the Whiteville meeting was 90, and 96 bird species were observed "under ideal weather conditions", highlighted by a Cattle Egret. Upcoming meetings were scheduled for Clemson in fall, Mattamuskeet in winter, and Cashiers in spring.

Wendell Smith reported on eight years of observations near North Wilkesboro. Most notable were a Black Rail feigning injury in Surry County 16 July 1959 and another in North Wilkesboro 21 May 1961.

Gaston Gage published a six-year study of the behavior of a pair of Northern Mockingbirds that were resident in his yard.

B. R. Chamberlain summarized the 1961 Spring Count. There were 17 counts, up from 12 in 1960. In each count that was done both years, the number of species was greater in 1961, and most individual counts were up as well. Charlotte had an unprecedented species count of 112. Bank and Cliff Swallows, which had rarely been seen in previous counts, were reported in several inland counts. The Charleston count included a Bachman's Warbler, "presumably the same bird that has been found in the Bull's Island area for several years".

Harry T. Davis reported on the year's banding activities between Cape Lookout and Ocracoke. Band recoveries since 1960 included Brown Pelicans, Royal Terns, and Black Skimmers recovered in Florida. Also, an Evening Grosbeak banded at Raleigh was recovered in Massachusetts.

In General Field Notes, two Magnificent Frigatebirds were reported at Garden City, SC 12 June 1961. A Northern [now Red-necked] Phalarope was seen at Lake Murray, SC, 22 May 1961. This was the first SC record since 1934. On 20 May 1961, 38–40 Mississippi Kites were seen at the Wateree State Prison Farm, SC. This was regarded as a large number. Greg Massey reported that a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen at Wilmington for one day only on 1 June 1961. This was the first record for the Wilmington area, and the editor noted that the first record for the state was at Southern Pines on 6 April 1953, and that the only other records for the state were one seen at Chapel Hill 19 June 1953 and one in Beaufort County on 27 June 1956.