

Fifty Years Ago in *The Chat*—December 1961

In the December 1961 issue of *The Chat*, the lead article was “Some Aspects of the Fall Shorebird Migration at Southport, N.C. in 1961” by T. L. Quay and D. A. Adam. They described flight paths of transient shorebirds.

General Field Notes reported a number of interesting observations. Joseph R. Norwood reported on a nesting of Pileated Woodpeckers in Mecklenburg County. Apparently the species had been seen in the county only once previously. William Post, Jr. described a previously undiscovered heron rookery on Hilton Head Island, populated by hundreds of herons and White Ibis. Also, Mr. and Mrs. David McG. Harrall reported a Great White Heron from Hilton Head Island. General Field Notes editor B. R. Chamberlain commented that as the species had “never been taken in South Carolina”, it “should be on the state Hypothetical List”. William Post, Jr. reported another record of Coot nesting in SC. This nest was in Barnwell County and was only the second nesting record for the state. Mrs. Ellison D. Smith reported that Least Terns were again nesting at Lake Murray, SC, where they had first been found the previous year. Richard H. Siler reported finding Red-cockaded Woodpeckers nesting near Seven Springs in Wayne County, NC. Strangely, editor Chamberlain commented that “Wayne County is farther inland than most nesting sites recorded in North Carolina”. Gaston Gage reported a nest of Barn Swallows near Clemson, SC. This was the first nesting record for the state, other than along the coast. J. Fred Denton reported nesting of Baltimore Orioles in North Augusta, SC, apparently the first nesting record for the state since 1943.

The CBC fall field trip was held at Clemson, SC, 6–8 Oct 1961, with 75 members attending.

In Briefs for the Files, it was reported that two singing male Bachman’s Warblers were found in Charleston County, SC between 19 March and the third week of May. “One was watched by scores of observers, the location of the second bird being withheld for its protection.”

—*Kent Fiala, editor*