

## Fifty Years Ago in *The Chat*—March 1963

---

The March 1963 issue of *The Chat* was edited by David W. Johnston of the Department of Biology at Wake Forest College. The cover featured a photograph taken by Jack Dermid of a Brown-headed Nuthatch emerging from a nest cavity. Jack Dermid is a renowned wildlife photographer probably best known for his work with *Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine. He was a regular contributor to *The Chat* and served as a Contributing Editor for a time as well.

In this issue, Dr. Johnston summarized the results of the 1962 Christmas Bird Count conducted in the Carolinas. A total of 24 counts were conducted with two Northern Shrikes, "one adult, one brownish-immature", reported on the Crumpler count, near Todd, NC.

Will Post, Jr. published a detailed report of tower casualties he discovered in Aiken South Carolina on the night of September 6-7, 1962. More than 400 birds of 32 species were killed after colliding with a television tower. The five most abundant species found killed were Red-eyed Vireo (239), Ovenbird (30), Veery (22), Bobolink (20), and Black-and-white Warbler (19). Individual specimens of Sora, Common Nighthawk, Golden-winged Warbler and many other species were also found. Post noted "All were in fat condition, especially the Red-eyed Vireos and Icterids."

James F. Parnell described his new research study, begun at North Carolina State College in 1962, to document "the particular habitat relations of warblers while in migration". One goal was to collect and analyze data from local Raleigh migratory populations and correlate it with regional observations of migration. He requested that bird watchers throughout both states spend time documenting warbler migration in their area in detail and submit their records to him for analysis.

Mrs. R.C. Tedards provided the results of a detailed study of Barn Owl food items that she undertook with Dr. Johnston. She collected 93 Barn Owl pellets over several months from a group of owls nesting in the trunk of a white oak tree near Anderson, South Carolina. The owls were believed to have been nesting in the vicinity of that tree for over 30 years. She turned the pellets over to Dr. Johnston for analysis. The preferred prey item was Cotton Rat followed by Least Shrew, House Mouse, and Meadow Vole.