

banded at Powdermill Nature Reserve. Eastern Bird Banding Association Monograph 1.  
Pyle, P. 1997. Identification Guide to North American Birds, Part 1. Slate Creek Press, Bolinas, California.

## **Fifty Years Ago in *The Chat* – September 1964**

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The September 1964 issue of *The Chat* featured the first full-color photograph and cover in the history of the publication. The photograph was of an adult White Ibis in flight, set against a sky blue background. Jack Potter photographed the bird in June 1963 at Battery Island, the first documented nesting site in the state. The publication of this “expensive process color cover” was made possible by Theo. B. Davis Sons printing company and was printed using a four-color offset printer on special paper donated by the Snyder Paper Company.

Eloise Potter provided a six page account of a bird species new to North Carolina: the House Finch. She gave a brief historical summary of the illegal sale of these western birds in eastern pet stores, where they were sold as “Hollywood Finches”, and she described their release, establishment and range expansion along the east coast. Ms. Potter provided an illustrated explanation of the identification of the House Finch and how to distinguish it from a Purple Finch. She also summarized the first confirmed sighting and collection of a House Finch in the state, from her own yard in Zebulon, during the winter of 1962-1963. This specimen is preserved in the collection at the North Carolina State Museum.

Rhett Chamberlain provided two articles for this issue. The first was a summary of the “invasion” of Evening Grosbeaks in the Carolinas during the winter of 1963-1964. Thirty observers submitted reports from both Carolinas documenting an incursion of “moderate proportions” which included some band recovery data as well. A Grosbeak found in Washington, NC had been banded in Ohio, one found in Springfield SC had been banded in Vermont, and one found in Whiteville, NC had been banded in Wisconsin. Each banded bird was five years old. Chamberlain’s second article summarized the wintering finches of 1963-1964. It included details on Pine Siskins, Red and White-winged Crossbills, Purple Finches as well as a sight report from South Carolina of a Pine Grosbeak and a sight report of a Common Redpoll in Charlotte.

A special note on Paul Sykes was included in this issue. Sykes had been a regular contributor to *The Chat*, had just finished a three-year tour in the US Navy, and was newly enrolled in graduate school at NC State where he planned to study landbird migration along the Outer Banks. Sykes, who is well known to many birders in Virginia and the Carolinas, went on to complete a distinguished career with the US Fish & Wildlife Service and to become the first person ever to participate in over 400 Christmas Bird Counts.