

**KEY TO TABLES 3 -5:** All search radii were set to 600 meters and density outputs were set as individuals per square kilometer. For each dataset KDE 1° and 2° hotspots were identified if the location had a density value in the top 20th % or 40th to 21st % respectively. Sites are abbreviated as: NBI = North Bull Island, SBB = Southwestern Bull's Bay shell rakes, MI = Marsh Island, WWB = West White Banks, MWB = Middle White Banks, EWB = East White Banks, SP = Sandy Point, SRK = South Raccoon Key, MRK = Middle Raccoon Key, NRK = North Raccoon Key, SLI = South Lighthouse Island, WLI = Washover area of Lighthouse Island, MLI = Middle Lighthouse Island, NLI = North Lighthouse Island, SCI = South Cape Island, MCI = Middle Cape Island, NCI = North Cape Island, and DWP = Deepwater Point.

## **Fifty Years Ago in *The Chat*—June 1965**

---

Theodore A. Beckett III provided an account of the 1964 nesting season of colonial waterbirds on Drum Island, located directly below the Cooper River bridge in Charleston, SC. For many years, the birds in this colony had been regularly killed for use as crab bait in bait pots run by local commercial crabbers. New “rigid” enforcement of bird protection laws had put an end to this practice and the colony had begun to recover.

Beckett visited the island weekly. Parts of the island were being raised by deposits of dredge spoil but the highest point was only about five feet above sea level. It was covered in marsh grasses, rushes, yaupon holly, wax myrtle and salt myrtle, and the interior had a mix of wild mulberry and palmetto trees. He documented ten species of waterbirds nesting there between March and August. It was the only known nesting site for Glossy Ibis in the state. As part of his ongoing study, Beckett captured and banded a total of 5,600 birds. Field conditions were harsh and he noted “mosquito nets were necessary as well as heavy jackets when the population built up in late June”.

Many of the young birds did not survive due to both natural and man-induced causes. Black-crowned Night-Herons preyed on the nestlings of White Ibis and Cattle Egrets. “Frequently”, nestlings that had fallen from nests were found impaled on the stiff spines of yucca leaves. However, the most serious impact to the survival of the chicks was caused by the application of a pesticide called “granular BHC”, used in mosquito control. The chemical was broadcast from an airplane directly over the island nests and marsh areas. Beckett documented several hundred young “in all stages of paralyzation for about three weeks after the application”. Later, he found between two and three thousand nestlings had disappeared when they should have been the right size for banding, but he remained unsure as to the exact cause of death. Beckett concluded that “if this colony can be protected from human exploitation, there is every indication that it will expand in numbers”. Today, wading birds still nest on small parts of the island. However, about three-quarters of the island is used by the S.C. State Ports Authority for drying dredge material.