

Fifty Years Ago in *The Chat*—March 1966

The lead article published in this issue was a summary of the status of the Fulvous Tree Duck (today known as the Fulvous Whistling-Duck), written by H. Lee Jones, a Charlotte native who was a student at N.C. State at the time. Jones provided a detailed summary of the past and present status of this duck along with a map showing winter records for a sixteen year period along the eastern seaboard. Jones wrote: "Only ten years ago the Fulvous Tree Duck was considered to be an accidental stray anywhere in the United States outside of its breeding range. Today it is an established winter resident from Florida to Virginia and a regular visitor to the Northeast." He concluded his article with a detailed explanation of the history of this species in the Carolinas. The earliest record was of a specimen collected in the Currituck Sound in July 1886. A few years after this article was published, Lee Jones moved on to graduate school on the west coast and he became an important figure in California birding during the 1970's. Jones has recently authored the book "Birds of Belize".

Elizabeth and Bob Teulings reported mist-netting and banding a pair of Worm-eating Warblers in June 1965 at their home in Durham County. The first warbler was an adult male discovered to be in breeding condition with a prominent cloacal protuberance. Three days later they caught a female with a brood patch. The birds were apparently nesting in a "damp wooded area consisting of second-growth deciduous trees and low underbrush". This provided additional confirmation of the Worm-eating Warbler breeding in the Piedmont.

Earl Hodel provided an interesting report of a mixed flock of swallows that showed up in Elkin on August 30, 1965. The flock was foraging and perching along the Yadkin River. Hodel estimated that the flock was over 1,000 birds in size and he was able to identify Tree, Bank, Rough-winged, Barn, and Cliff Swallows along with Purple Martins. He was especially pleased to see the five Bank Swallows and noted they were the first he had seen in Wilkes County in almost thirty years.

A detailed account of a sighting of Say's Phoebe in Wake County, authored by Lee Jones, was also included in this issue. Jones provided convincing details of a bird he found on October 23, 1965 while he was studying a flock of water pipits. He had time to sketch the bird in some detail and contacted others to help him collect it - as it would have been a first state record. Unfortunately, a cold front moved in during the night and the bird was never seen again. Jones wrote "it will have to remain on the hypothetical list until a specimen is obtained".