

## Fifty Years Ago in *The Chat*—June 1966

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Paul Sykes contributed an article titled “Evidence of the Eastward Expansion of the Breeding Range of the Song Sparrow into the Eastern Piedmont of North Carolina”. In it, Sykes provided a map of breeding locations in the Piedmont showing the movement of the species from the western Piedmont in 1933, to the first nest found in Wake County in the eastern Piedmont, on May 13, 1965. He provided full details of the latter nest attempt along with a photograph.

T.A. Beckett III of Charleston submitted a letter warning of the decline of the Brown Pelican population in South Carolina. He asked birders to help support efforts to determine the cause of this steep population decline and discussed the need for federal protection of both the Brown Pelican and the Osprey. Both of these fish-eating species had begun to disappear in many southeastern states. Within a decade of the publication of Beckett’s letter, both species were placed on the new federal list of endangered species, the build up of DDT in the food chain was determined as the primary cause for the population crash, and conservation efforts were being made to aid in these birds’ recovery.

Notices of the deaths of two prominent birders were also published in this issue. Ivan R. Tompkins was one of the south’s leading naturalists, ornithologists, and wildlife photographers. He lived in Savannah and spent a lifetime birding and watching wildlife in South Carolina and Georgia. He contributed many articles and essays to state and national publications. Tompkins “was well-versed in a number of fields - in identification, distribution, taxonomy, and behavior. His was a keen, an analytical mind. To him “what” and “where” were of interest, but “how” and “why” were more important”.

B. Rhett Chamberlain was an engineer by trade who spent his free time studying birds and other aspects of nature. He published many articles about birds in the Carolinas. He was the brother of South Carolina ornithologist E. Burnham Chamberlain. Rhett Chamberlain played many roles supporting ornithological work in both Carolinas. As a boy he prepared study skins for Arthur T. Wayne at the Charleston Museum of Natural History. As an adult he helped start Spring Bird Counts in the Carolinas and was the compiler of the counts and the editor of the General Field Notes section of *The Chat* for many years. He also worked with his brother to found the Carolina Bird Club from existing groups in both North and South Carolina.