

Fifty Years Ago in The Chat

Steve Shultz

The December 1972 issue of *The Chat* featured a black and white drawing of a Pileated Woodpecker, copies of which were available to the public in return for joining the National Audubon Society. At that time, annual membership was \$35. Today one can be an annual member for as little as \$20! Not many things cost less than they did in 1973, although today's member does not receive the woodpecker artwork!

Monk Parakeets were found to be nesting in Buncombe County, NC, presumably in 1972, and a note suggests that members in the Carolinas keep an eye out for these "medium-sized parakeets" at bird feeders. Fast forward fifty years and we are still waiting for the birds to arrive! While a few birds have been seen in the Carolinas, with nesting occurring in Brunswick County, NC, the birds never became numerous or established.

General Field Notes include a short description of North Carolina's second report of Reddish Egret. The sighting by James F. Parnell from Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge in Dare County, NC on September 25, 1971 was accompanied by a photograph that allowed the species to be added to that state's official list. The first record is noted to have been in Charlotte on 21 July 1947. Reddish Egret is now an annual species at preferred locations, mainly inlet flats, along the North and South Carolina coasts.

Finally, Eloise F. Potter published a short note in which she interprets the behavior of a male American Robin seen repeatedly mounting a pine cone.

Did You Know?

Full copies of *The Chat* dating back to the very first issue, March 1937, are available for viewing online. Find these and more at:

<https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/chat/>



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