

eye than mine showed no injury to the leg - it was merely that the band was much too big! I had used a size #2, as listed on the mimeo sheets sent out by the banding office. Of course, neither Jim nor I had any bands with us, but he took the offending one off, and we released the bird, and that was that. I felt rather deflated, although at the same time I knew that one bird more or less did not make any real difference. But a Green-tailed Towhee here! Jim Baird, however, probably has the unique distinction of being the only person to have un-banded one!

At the time I applied it, I thought the band seemed large, but with my lack of experience, and the rather strained circumstances under which I was working, (the friends were cooperative, but not over-enthusiastic) I was not in a very good position to use my own judgment, if I had had any, which I really had not.

Since then, much to my own personal gratification, I have re-banded the bird with a size #1B, and have the report from my friends that he is seen each day, paying no attention to the band, but happily scratching and kicking and jumping backward in his day-long feeding. Praises be!

Middleboro, Mass.

OPERATION RECOVERY AT ISLAND BEACH, NEW JERSEY

By Stanley S. Dickerson

Operation Recovery is a cooperative banding study of the fall migration along the Atlantic coast. The original purpose was the banding of birds during prescribed periods "with the ultimate hope that immediate recoveries by other stations farther down the coast might reveal information about the distance a bird flies in a single migratory hop, and the time that a bird takes to migrate a certain distance; and concurrently, whether birds, when they reach the coast continue to migrate on down the coast or whether they head back inland."* It was soon realized that the possibility of such recoveries was slight, but that much other useful information would be obtained during the program: (1) "the weather conditions that are coincident with migratory flights of birds, (2) any evidence of diurnal migration, (3) the species composition of the various flights,"* and (4) weights and measurements of certain defined species.*

The project began in the fall of 1955 as a ten-year operation and has been continued each year since. Four stations were in operation in 1955 and resulted in the banding of about 1500 birds. In 1956, approximately 5200 birds of 113 species were banded at 15 stations ranging from Nova Scotia to Maryland.* From incomplete returns, it appears that in 1957 at least 10,000 birds were banded at 12 stations located from Nova Scotia to Caffey's Inlet, North Carolina.

*Release of Bird Banding Office, July 1957 "Operation Recovery"

21,000 of 122 species

Island Beach State Park is a narrow strip of coastland, purchased by the state of New Jersey in 1953, 10 miles in length, extending from Seaside Park in Ocean County to Barnegat Inlet. The peninsula is, for the most part, less than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile wide, bordered on the east by the Atlantic Ocean and on the west by Barnegat Bay. Except for the sand dunes at the ocean edge, it is quite level. A paved road bisects the strip from the northerly end to within about 1 mile of the Inlet. The portion east of this road is principally beach and sand dunes with some cover near the road. The west side of the road is almost entirely covered, the principal growth being Bayberry, Catbrier, Wild Cherry, Red Cedar, Holly, Poison Ivy, and Hudsonia with lesser amounts of Blueberry, Sumac, and Virginia Creeper. This cover is between 4 to 12 feet in height except in a very few places where it reaches a height of perhaps 20 feet. Extending from the road on both sides are paths used by fishermen to get to their boats and bait on the bay-side and to the beach on the ocean side. The bay-side is generally sandy but there are swampy areas, and, in some instances, large salt marshes as the bay is approached. These fishermen's lanes proved to be ideal net locations, 5 to 10 feet wide and running east-west across the peninsula.

The project at Island Beach was first conducted in the fall of 1956 from September the 8th through the 21st, resulting in the banding of 599 birds of 59 species. Only 8 to 12 nets were used daily because of the small number of banders participating and for only 1620 net-hours. Nevertheless, the experience gained that year resulted in a much larger station in 1957 which was operated continuously from September 6th through September 22nd using 8 to 60 nets per day, depending on the number of banders present. During 8437 net-hours 2786 birds of 91 species were banded.

Preparation for this expanded project was begun in the spring of 1957 by considerable correspondence with banders who had indicated a desire to participate for extended periods of time. This involved notations of dates and time available, netting experience and various other factors. Several trips were made to Island Beach to search out as many net locations as possible, although all cooperators were urged to make their own selections on a "first-come, first-served" basis.

Permission for the operation was obtained from Mr. John B. Verdier, Park Superintendent, without whose full cooperation the project would not have been possible. Arrangements were made for admission of the banders as the Park is closed to the public at the present time. This required the printing of identification cards which were affixed to the banders' cars, and submission to Mr. Verdier of a complete list of all banders and the exact dates when each would be present. It was necessary to obtain from each bander a list of the band numbers intended to be used so that banders would know whether any banded bird caught was a repeat

or a foreign retrap. Various weather equipment had to be procured and set up; namely, a wind speed indicator, wind direction sock, and thermometers. All kinds of netting equipment and tools were acquired for use of the cooperators although each was asked to furnish his own poles, nets and bands. Record keeping was standardized by the printing of special forms for the project with appropriate columns for notation of the date, number of nets, number of hours, band numbers, species, weight and wing length of the bird as well as the direction from which the bird struck the net and the exact time of release.

Mr. Verdier made available an old building used by the Coast Guard in World War II as a magazine, and this, after the roof was repaired and the concrete floor partially cleared of old lumber, was satisfactory. Here a scale was set up for weighing and a large bulletin board was prepared where maps, band lists, and other data were posted. A gasoline stove and some food supplies were kept on hand for those banders not wishing to drive to Seaside Park for meals. The magazine also served as a storeroom for extra nets, poles, gathering cages, and the usual tools required for netting. The magazine was 3.8 miles south of the entrance gate which is at the north end of the Park.

There were 11 net lanes used in all, but several of these were in use only one week-end or were abandoned as unsatisfactory. The principal lanes were six in number and two were at points 1.4 miles and .9 miles north of the magazine, and four at points .3 miles, 1.9 miles, 2.3 miles and 4.7 miles south of the magazine, which was used as headquarters. Most of these lanes were on the bay-side due to more cover and less exposure to the wind.

Each bander used his own bands and kept his own daily records. At the end of the day a carbon copy of his record was turned in showing the number banded of each species, which enabled us to keep a daily summary of individuals and species. More complete records, including band numbers, repeats, and returns were submitted at the conclusion of the bander's participation.

Weighing the birds presented an almost insurmountable problem. At times the density of the catch was such that it was impossible, with due regard for the safety of the birds, to remove them from the nets, deposit them in gathering cages, cart the birds to the magazine by automobile, weight them, and return to the nets to remove other birds caught in the intervening period. Therefore weighing was often abandoned completely and hence the small number of birds weighed as against the total banded -- i.e. 472 out of 2786. It is expected and hoped that this feature of the project will be improved. Efforts are being made to secure the services of students majoring in one of the natural sciences,

or a scientifically trained person who will donate his two-week vacation, devoting his full time to this part of the program.

Conspicuous because of the numbers banded were 819 Catbirds, 80 Empidonax, 36 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 14 Carolina Wrens, 73 Cape May Warblers, 267 Redstarts, and 76 Yellow-breasted Chats. Of the 32 species of warblers banded, the unusual were 3 Prothonotaries, 2 Mourning, 2 Worm-eating, 10 Connecticut, and 1 Kentucky. Other interesting catches were 3 Dickcissels, 1 Summer Tanager, 1 Solitary Vireo, 1 Loggerhead Shrike, 1 Merlin, and 11 Philadelphia Vireos. It should also be noted that only 2 Starlings, 1 Grackle, 3 Robins, and no Redwinged Blackbirds were caught.

This project could have been much improved with at least one bander devoting full time to record keeping. While the noting of species, sex, date and band number in the usual manner is the principal purpose of bird banding, where so many birds are caught within such a limited period of time, other data of importance could also be noted. The weighing of the birds has already been mentioned. In addition, other measurements and data could well be recorded or projects undertaken similar to the one done by Dr. Richard Riesz during his stay at Island Beach. Dr. Riesz noted the height and time at which each bird was captured in the net and plotted his findings in a graph. (Dr. Riesz' paper and graphs will appear in the succeeding issue of EBBA NEWS -- Ed.)

Many other projects could be undertaken regarding species, weather, net location, time and habitat and the interrelation of these factors.

The observations which have been, since the beginning, an integral part of Operation Recovery, have been almost a complete failure at Island Beach due solely to lack of observers. Perhaps this problem can be solved by persuading some Bird Club or Ornithological Society to take over this phase of the project, as it is impossible for the banders to carry on both activities.

On September 15th, the operation was visited by Dr. John Aldrich, Mr. Allan Duval, and Mr. Chandler Robbins. It was a very hot day, with quite some wind, but the mosquitos were kinder to them than was usual.

Operation Recovery at Island Beach was carried on with the help of many individuals beside the banders. Observers, weather forecasters, Park personnel, and many others were an important part of the project. Mr. Albert Schnitzer, a member of EBBA, has for both 1956 and 1957 mimeographed, at his own expense, innumerable copies of the summaries for banders, observers, college teachers, and other interested persons.

However, the brunt of Operation Recovery at Island Beach was, in the last analysis, borne by the licensed netters who are all members of

the Eastern Bird Banding Association. They are: Bennett K. Matlack, Mrs. Frank Townsend, William and Miss Mary Pepper, Frank Frazier, Sr., Frank Frazier, Jr., John Given, John Miller, Richard Riesz, James Baird, and Alexander Bergstrom.

Thanks and respects are due to this hardy group of individuals who demonstrated their ability to withstand heat, rain, dirt, sand, catbrier wounds and poison ivy, and who so very ably carried on a daily experiment to determine which of a multitude of products was REALLY the best mosquito repellent.

Spotswood, N.J.

(Although no mention of the fact is made in the above paper, virtually all the planning, arrangements, supervision, management and everything else connected with this project was done with unflagging cheerfulness and efficiency by Elise and Stanley Dickerson. -- Ed.)

WHO IS BANDING THE MOST OF WHAT?

Edited by Lillian Cardinali

Here are the leaders in the banding of water birds, shore birds, hawks, etc. In the succeeding issues we plan to list the leaders in some of the passerine species. Thanks are due those members who have already sent in their 1957 banding figures -- but many of our banders have not done so. If you are among the missing, please send in your figures as soon as you read this.

AOU	WATER BIRDS, SHORE BIRDS, HAWKS, etc.		
27	Black Guillemot	Joseph M. Cadbury, Phila., Pa.	27
47	Gt. Black-b. Gull	Cadbury	175
		Grace C. Meleney, White Plains, N.Y.	13
51	Herring Gull	William Pepper, Phila., Pa.	821
		Meleney	621
53	California Gull	Seth H. Low, Gaithersburg, Md.	50
54	Ring-billed Gull	Low	60
58	Laughing Gull	Bennett K. Matlack, Bridgeton, N.J.	2803
		Pepper	220
70	Common Tern	Chandler S. Robbins, Laurel, Md.	225
		Matlack	109
74	Least Tern	William Pepper	23
		Grace Meleney	7
81	Bl-footed Albatross	Robbins	50
82.1	Laysan Albatross	Robbins	97
80	Black Skimmer	Matlack	91
		Robbins	41