

ISLAND BEACH 1962

By William Pepper

Next year I'm taking a large house trailer to Operation Recovery at Island Beach, New Jersey. This is a must for any Island Beach bander -- except for leaders, ex leaders, or future leaders, and people like Bert Mehl or Joe Jurray who have reserved space at headquarters, R.I.P.

One section will be used for sleeping and eating. (This year I figured each bird I banded cost me 53 cents.)

The next section will contain the large library -- especially the numerous advance pages for the new Bird Banding Manual, the Workshop Manual, the sheets of detailed procedures and instructions, the various guides, etc.

Then a large area must be devoted to the laboratory which includes the weighing area with its scales, cones, bags, etc., the ageing and sexing and measuring sections with all necessary equipment, a large refrigerator (necessary for storing dead muskrats, bluefish, birds, etc. -- and a little food and drink.)

Oh, I forgot -- there must also be some space for banding birds and storing the hundreds of unused bands -- but this is not really important.

I have also begun training my dog, "Julian", to carry a collecting cage full of birds so that he can take it to headquarters for checking, and thus save me many trips, since our pickup service has so far not worked very well. I have already trained him to check a net lane during dull periods and to bark if there are any birds caught.

My next project will be to invent a costume which is really cool, yet absolutely mosquito-proof, and which will cover me from head to foot yet enable me to see netting clearly, and to wade into the bay muck up to my hips after netted shore birds.

Upon returning this year my wife blew up, I mean blew up my feathers and reported that I had an overall fat content of -0 and of -10 in the cerebrum.

MEMO: I must write the Park authorities and ask whether we can bring 20 house trailers and park them along the road at each banding lane for a month or two.

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