

DEAR 3692:  
(Letter written to Bill Pepper after reading his article "Island Beach")

Dear 3692:

Having faithfully read the Sept.-October 1962 issue of EBBA News, I find myself beset with an uncontrollable urge to sit down on my gathering cage and write you a long and boresome letter, to wit: (and notice I did not say "to half-wit" because I don't go along with Mrs. Pepper's diagnosis)

WHEREAS, Island Beach birds had a 53¢ price tag in 1962; and

WHEREAS, The purchase of even one house trailer would raise the net price per bird in 1963; and

WHEREAS, Said trailer would be quite unsalable at the close of one banding season (for reasons not mentionable here) and hence would have to be written off as a capital loss, for which you could not even capitalize on your Income Tax; and

WHEREAS, your dog "Julian" cannot legally possess your birds long enough to transport them to headquarters until he reaches 18 years of age; and

WHEREAS, There is an up and coming Operation Recovery Station in the FREE State; and

WHEREAS, This Station, known as Ocean City No. 1, is only twice as far from 20 East Bells Mill as is Island Beach; and

WHEREAS, Even at the exorbitant, maximum possible rate of \$8.00 per day for food, lodging, and mosquito dope, the per bird cost (based on authentic 1962 figures) would not exceed 19.70¢ (based on an average of 3 banders per day sharing their catch equally);

NOW THEREFORE WE, the OCSD\*, offer you a cordial invitation to join us in '63 with the following provisos:

1. That you preregister all band numbers that you place on birds that are going to repeat at the Ocean City Stations; and
2. That you agree to blow all and weigh all birds captured between sunrise and sunset.

This invitation is issued on behalf of The Management,

\*Ocean City Slave Drivers

Per 6661