

LITERATURE CITED

- Arthur Cleveland Bent 1921 Life Histories of North American Gulls and Terns
 Oliver L. Austin mostly during the 1940's various articles on the life history of the Common Tern in Bird-Banding.
 Raymond A. Paynter 1955 Ornithography of the Yucatan Peninsula.
 313 Sharp Ave., Glenolden, Pa.



THE CONTINUING ARMISTICE BETWEEN
 ORNITHOLOGY AND MEDICAL RESEARCH
 By C. Brooke Worth

As early as the 1930's it was suggested that birds, especially American Egrets, might play an essential part in basic cycles of some mosquito-borne viruses of human and veterinary importance in New Jersey. Since then suspect species of birds, proved kinds of vector mosquitoes and demonstrated virus-infected areas of the world have achieved global representation. The initial indignant reaction of local groups of ornithologists has lost its echo as powerful agencies such as the U. S. Public Health Service and the World Health Organization have taken the question to their impervious bosoms.

How, then, do matters stand today? A spectacularly detailed and conclusive study of Japanese B encephalitis has shown birds to be probably victims -- rather than reservoirs -- of the virus, paralleling the role of local swine and human beings. In western United States, several species of "blackbirds" probably serve to spread virus during the transmission season late in summer, but it is still to be proved that they carry it through to the following year. Our foreign colleague, Dr. Salim Ali, is engaged in an extensive bird-netting and banding program on the Rann of Kutch in India to determine whether the hordes of birds funneling through this corridor from Europe and the Near East each year may carry viruses with them from one Continent to another.

These are only a few of the active programs currently operating in regard to birds, arthropod-borne viruses, and human and veterinary welfare. However after almost 30 years, it is impossible to point, in a single case anywhere in the world, to any species or group of birds and say: "These are vermin!" Medical Research has a long and seemingly improbable way to go before it can compete with those ancestors of ours who accounted for the decease of the Great Auk and Passenger Pigeon.