



EBBA's Treasurer, Mrs. Elise Dickerson,
"processing" a bird at Island Beach
Photo by Frank P. Frazier

ADVANCE REPORT ON ISLAND BEACH

Although as EBBA NEWS goes to press, the official results of Operation Recovery banding at Island Beach, N. J. have not been published, Mr. Albert Schnitzer, the station leader for this year, has kindly consented to furnish EBBA NEWS with some of the highlights of this year's banding.

Most EBBA NEWS readers are familiar with Island Beach either from experience or from descriptions, but for those who are not, a brief description follows: Island Beach is the southern, uninhabited part, several miles long, of a narrow barrier island along the southern New Jersey coast. It is largely covered with dense, low vegetation, and this vegetation is cut at intervals by paths or lanes from the road to the bay shore: it is along these lanes that net-lines are set.

A total of 6,769 birds of 112 species were banded during the month of September. Of these, 297 were shorebirds of seven species, which were caught in nets set especially for them on the bay shore. The six most numerous birds were as follows:

Catbird	1,006	Red-eyed Vireo	342
Redstart	503	Baltimore Oriole	267
Swainson's Thrush	387	White-throated Sparrow	232

Of the 232 White-throated Sparrows, 181 were netted during a very heavy flight on September 25th.

Some of the rarities are as follows: of particular note is the large numbers of Connecticut Warblers and Philadelphia Vireos. No Clay-colored Sparrow was banded this year, though they have been taken the last several years.

Connecticut Warbler	60	Blue Grosbeak	3
Philadelphia Vireo	37	Dickcissel	2
Mourning Warbler	8	Lark Sparrow	1

The rarest occurrence, however, was a Bell's Vireo, taken toward the end of September. This bird is common west of the Mississippi, but except for a hypothetical record in 1940, has never been found in New Jersey. As this is the first record for the state, the bird was collected, and identification verified at the American Museum in New York.



Stanley Dickerson at work at a net full
of shorebirds at Island Beach
Photo by Frank P. Frazier