

It is unfortunate that only weekends could be spent on banding here, as there are excellent opportunities for study, with so much material to work with. As it is, the only definite conclusion apparent is that Tuckerton is unexcelled as a migration concentration point for bird-banding purposes, especially because it is possible, unlike most if not all other coastal banding locations, to "herd" the birds toward the nets. When there were many birds in the small area at the end of the road, we found that we were kept quite busy with five nets: we used locations numbered #6 through #10 on the diagram above; the other spots were used in August and September when we operated as many as ten nets. On the two weekends in October, we used five nets almost exclusively, except for two more put up on October 12, when it was too windy to catch many birds, and one more part of October 17 (at location no. 5 on the diagram). As a result, the birds-per-net-hour figures are, for these weekends, far above those for any other Operation Recovery station that I have heard of. For example, the highest birds-per-net-hour average at Island Beach was .9 (nine-tenths) on September 25, 1959 - 414 birds in 462 net-hours; a total of 45 nets used.

There are, however, a few disadvantages at Tuckerton which make it less attractive for a major banding operation than it first seems. Wind is a very great problem, as there is very little to shelter the nets from it - and it is windy at Tuckerton more often than not. We tried split-shot as suggested by Gail Cannon in the July-August EBBA NEWS: this helped, but we used it as an emergency measure and it was not as satisfactory as it would have been if used properly. Split-shot ought to be put on nets which are set exactly as desired on a calm day, rather than in a wind. Repeats can also become a problem: due to the restricted banding area, banded birds will be caught again and again, and we soon adopted the practice of driving each cage-full of birds a mile or two down the road to release them. For an extended stay, this area is primitive at best - there are no food or lodging facilities within many miles of the banding area - we got by, camping out among the mosquitoes, but are not prepared to recommend this to others! Finally, the Great Bay Boulevard is a popular road for hunters and fishermen who come to park at the end, and for people on weekend outings who have the maddening habit of driving to the end of the road with no more purpose than to turn around and return. It is a painfully public area for banding.

Upper Montclair, New Jersey

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#### QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

All Banders, we believe, beginners or veterans, have problems of one sort or another for which they need answers. To meet this need, EBBA NEWS is arranging a new department, Questions & Answers, to appear in each future issue. So send in your questions about any phase of banding -- satisfying answers are guaranteed!

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