

to nest there. The season was at a late stage, with many fledged birds perched here and there and large young in the remaining nests. The young herons have been proved to be susceptible to infection with Japanese B virus by the bites of infected mosquitoes--and subsequently to infect other mosquitoes that bite them. However it has not been demonstrated that the birds carry the virus on migration or maintain it as reservoirs on a year-to-year basis.

San Francisco seemed close to home, but the story was the same. Here there is a good program of research in certain birds as spreaders of Western Equine Encephalitis virus, a relative of the New Jersey culprit. Birds that are particularly suspect as vehicles of the virus are Brewer's Blackbirds, Cowbirds, Common and Tricolored Redwings, English Sparrows and House Finches, many of which forage in enormous flocks from midsummer onwards. Bird banding does not seem to have been emphasized in virus studies in Japan or California but could undoubtedly yield useful information.

These remarks demonstrate the attention which birds are currently receiving on a world-wide basis in relation to diseases of economic importance, as well as some of the ornithological techniques that are being used to discover new information. In general it appears that bird banders have made a contribution not only through their past studies of avian population dynamics but particularly in their most recent exploitation of the mist net as a means of securing species that are otherwise virtually not obtainable or even not known to be present. Medically oriented biologists are making full use of the published experience of bird banders -- another example of the way in which basic or "pure" science is eventually applied to practical ends that could not have been envisioned by the original enthusiasts who simply wanted to learn the unknown.

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#### MABEL MEETS DONNA - OR VICE VERSA

"Thank you for your card of inquiry regarding our survival of the hurricane," writes Mabel Warburton from the Island Beach, N.J. Operation Recovery Station. "We made out fine. We began taking nets down around 7 a.m. The "Three Peppers" had theirs down around 7:30 and went back to Phila. The rest of us, Michael Logue, Bert Murray, Walter Bigger and I, had them all down by 8:30. We gathered up all the records, scales, and everything of value, loaded it in the cars, and left the Park.... We had no damage at the cottages. At the Magazine the ventilator blew off and some of the roof went -- it leaked as usual. The boys went hunting for birds and found several accidentals (one was a Bridled Tern.) Tuesday we resumed operations."

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