I'm reading in some data that is in a weird format and I've devised a
technique which involves reading the one original data file, making a
temporary file for each different type of data, doing some stuff with
the data through reading the temp files, then, creating a new single
data file.

Does IDL have a feature where, instead of using the hard drive for the
temporary files, the RAM is used? (Us amiga users call it a RAM disk.)
No, I'm not talking about making a huge (huge) array