

A Pair of Lifers

I was born in Philadelphia in November of 1905, the son of Dr. and Mrs. William Pepper. My father started banding in 1914 (pre-Biological Survey days). We children were soon aiding him by finding nests, as this was one of the main methods of banding at that time.

I attended various schools in the Philadelphia area but did not attend college.

When I actually banded my first bird I will never know since my father's records give no indication of it. But I believe it was prior to 1922. I know I was banding for him for some years before 1928 when I married, moved away from home, and applied for my own banding permit, number 3692. Since 1928 my wife and I, for she soon received her own permit, have banded over 76,000 birds of 176 species in several states, including Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Massachusetts.

I belong to the three bird banding associations, the Wilson Ornithological Club, DVOC and several of the national associations.

Margaret was also born in Philadelphia, moved to Jenkintown, a suburb, and finished school there. We met in the Free Library of Philadelphia, where we were both employed. She soon caught the banding bug from her efforts to help me.

We both became Life Members some years ago at the instigation of Elise Dickerson.

We are both retired now and spend most of our time banding at our home in Philadelphia, Island Beach, New Jersey, and elsewhere.

William Pepper, 445 East Abington Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19118

A PAIR OF LIFERS: Bill and Margaret Pepper
(Photo by: Michael T. Clark)

