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Eastern Regional News

Eastern Bird Banding Association

Founded 1923

MABEL WARBURTON

October 3, 1906 – May 21, 2003

Mabel Warburton, long-time, active and honorary member of EBBA, died 21 May 2003 at Yardley, PA, at age 96 of complications from breaking her hip. She trained to be a bander under Dr. Paul Fluck at Washington Crossing, PA; and at age 48 obtained her permit on 20 Dec 1954, which she held until 11 Apr 1994, lamenting at the time that she only wished she had started banding at an earlier age.

Born Jessie Mabel Margerum on 3 Oct 1906, she was a seventh generation descendant of Henry Margerum born in 1658 in England who emigrated to the Colonies on 2 Mar 1682, settling in Bucks County, PA. She married Benjamin Warburton, a New York executive, 14 Jun 1929, raised two daughters, and led a very active life as a birder, bander, published poetess, historian, and published genealogist.

In 1987, after 25 years of family research, she published a family genealogy going back to 1682 covering 248 Margerum families. That publication resides in at least 16 libraries nationwide from California to Louisiana to New York. She was active in the Daughters of American Colonists, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Colonial Dames.

I met Mabel in September 1964 at the Operation Recovery banding station at Island Beach State Park, NJ. I applied to band there and spent weekends in Mabel's lane (it still bears her name) being evaluated and learning fall identification of species I had never before encountered. Mabel was petite in stature, unafraid to speak her piece

about various matters, though genial and friendly. She treated me, along with other younger banders, with that motherly sort of patience and sharing of her extensive identification skills. We became good friends, and I benefitted immensely from the experience.

She had many relatives participating in the banding at Island Beach (IB). She featured them in a story in the 1 Jul 1988 issue (Vol. 9, No. 1) of "The Margerum Magazine," a magazine she edited and distributed. She would rent a cottage at the shore for four to six weeks attracting family and friends who constantly came and went, operating their own lanes or assisting those who did, or as in the case of her daughter Charl, compiling the station records.

During Mabel's tenure as director of IB, from 1964 to 1968, 110,368 birds were banded. Mabel remained active at IB banding from 1958 to 1991 when, at age 85, failing eyesight and the rigors of driving became too much to deal with. She continued banding in her yard, but complained it was a poor substitute for the real thing at IB.

On a cool, windy October day in the late 1990s, Charl brought a physically frail Mabel to IB for a visit. Glenn Mahler and I helped her off the boardwalk to allow her to come into my lane at A-7 where she had also banded previously. Her eyesight made identifying a bird difficult, but I knew she took immense pleasure holding a White-throated Sparrow in her hand and bringing it close to her face to capture its silhouette. She still retained that sense of touch inherent to the hands of bird banders.

It was an ironic coincidence that the day Mabel died, 21 May 2003, I was at IB, my last day of a week's stay. With a favorable SW wind, an abundance of birds and a variety of species, it was a morning she would have enjoyed thoroughly. I know I did, made possible in part by the legacy of her tutorship those many years ago.

Persons wishing to remember Mabel may do so by contributing to EBBA's Memorial Fund, the proceeds of which support student research grants.

Robert P. Yunick

NABC CERTIFICATION OCTOBER 2003

EBBA's fifth NABC Landbird Bander Certification Session, hosted by Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, Rochester, NY, on 3-5 Oct 2003, certified Charles Eiseman of Amherst, MA; Tom LeBlanc of Salamanca, NY; and Dan Webb of Tiffin, OH. Trainers who conducted the session were Betsy Brooks, Mary Doscher, Sara Morris, Hannah Suthers and Bob Yunick.

Candidates arrived ahead of time to familiarize themselves with the site and the station protocols.

Overnight rain delayed Saturday morning's start at the nets, and rain returned as the nets were furled at noon to conduct the indoor portion of the evaluation in the afternoon. Fortunately, we had that very opportune window between showers to accomplish the netting evaluation with sufficient birds. After Saturday evening's pizza, the trainers worked late into the night on scoring.

Sunday got off to a good start after we performed the most difficult net extraction of the session—a Norway rat tangled in a hoop net in the observatory and, yes, scissors were used in this extraordinary case to release the critter alive. Weather was better, exit interviews were conducted with candidates, and birds were abundant allowing for considerable discussion at the banding table on species identification as well as aging and sexing methods, once again augmenting the evaluation with valuable training.

Thanks go to the Observatory, Betsy Brooks and her staff of interns and volunteers for hosting the session, and for assisting in many ways. This freed up the trainers to focus on fulfilling the North American Banding Council requirements for the session.

Robert P. Yunick

Correction : Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont --- Coastal Plain, Fall 2002

Due to a reformatting error by the Production Mgr. while preparing NABB Vol. 28(2), the last six entries in the following table were incorrect (**bold**). The Production Mgr. apologizes to the Regional Coordinator and participants.

Table 1. AFR Region IV, Fall 2002 Summary

	Laurel	Patuxent	Jug Bay	Chino Farms	Chincoteague
First Day	16 Aug	1 Aug	14 Aug	1 Aug	1 Aug
Last Day	1 Dec	30 Nov	19 Nov	21 Nov	8 Dec
Days Open	66	103	42	57	65
Nets Used	3 - 5	21 - 26	26	14 - 68	4 - 10
Net Hours	3733	8700	3596	11,489	1281
No. Best Day	18	115	129	409	43
Best Day Date	21 Sep	19 Oct	17 Oct	15 Oct	8 Dec
Most Species	10	24	24	36	11
Most Species Date	18 Aug	25 Sep	30 Sep	17 Sep	19 Sep
Banded 2001	519	3737	2661	8057	430
Banded 2002	286	3104	2316	5619	579
Species 2001	53	84	72	111	60
Species 2002	38	85	91	104	53
B/100nh 2001	8	40.9	72	61.2	57
B/100nh 2002	7	35.7	64	48.8	45
%HY 2001	67%	58%	70%	79%	92%
%HY 2002	71%	66%	75%	82%	93%

***Bottom six rows have been corrected.**