

*Note*

THE WASHINGTON CROSSING BIRD BANDING STATION

Note: The following descriptive material is taken from material which is given to visitors to the banding station.--Editor

In May 1952 the Washington Crossing Park Bird Banding Station was opened to the public. Since then, 32,000 visitors have watched while



A Banding Program at Washington Crossing Park  
Showing Dr. Fluck Holding a Barn Owl

6,000 wild birds have been banded. Programs are held twice weekly on Saturday and Sunday afternoons only - at 3 P.M. (after March 1st at 4 p.m.).

Short talks on birds being banded provide an opportunity to learn bird lore with the bird in the bander's hands. Photographers are invited to take pictures with or without flash. Many wonderful details like the harpoon barbs on a Downy Woodpecker's tongue, the split tongue

of a Crow, and the hooked beaks of flycatchers and vireos can not be seen in living birds in any other way.

Birds of 109 species have been banded at Washington Crossing Park. Many unusual visitors, vireos, and other hard-to-identify birds are banded every year. Some visitors have added birds to their life lists by attending the programs. Cardinals, titmice, chickadees, woodpeckers, Blue Jays, and many other wild birds fly in to feed from the feeders overhead while the program is in progress. One Parula Warbler family nests in the Norway Spruce on the lawn. Woodchucks, skunks, deer, squirrels, and even racoons are quite tame and often can be seen from the lawn.

Washington Crossing Park is ideally situated for bird banding study. As an historical area it has remained and will always remain unchanged. The hemlocks, spruces, pine groves, and oak woods provide the same habitat year after year. It is correct to assume that birds arrive and pass through the Park in migration on just about the same days as they did in Colonial and pre-Colonial times.

The Washington Crossing Park Bird Banding Station is operated entirely by unpaid volunteers. Banders in charge of the programs are Dr. and Mrs. Paul H. Fluck.

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#### HOUSING AND EATING ACCOMODATIONS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

Dr. Paul H. Fluck, 73 N. Union St., Lambertville, New Jersey, has been named Chairman of the Local Committee on Arrangements; the other members of the committee have not been announced. Members and guests who are planning to attend are requested to advise Dr. Fluck, as soon as possible, of the accomodations which they desire. While there are adequate accomodations in the area, it is most important that advance reservations be made since, in April, there is considerable demand for facilities for weekend visitors from New York.

With one exception, advance payment is not required, although in cases where members plan to arrive after the usual reservation deadline of six p.m., such advance payment would ensure accomodations.

Annual Dinner