

still feel many banders can do a great deal toward making life richer for youngsters through a knowledge of birds. Possibly more important, the time spent may set some youngster headed toward a career in the sciences through a development at an early age of the fundamental skills necessary for studying one kind of science with care.

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BANDING STATION YOUTH PROGRAM
By Boletta J. Morris

I agree with Ralph Bell's note about getting our young people interested in what we say -- "Bird Banding".

A few years ago I started a youth program at my home (1 2/3 acres.) My husband and I built an outdoor area of logs. Children from all the local schools come as groups, to spend from 9:30 until noon with me. I talk about each bird caught that morning. Each bird is banded and I stress to them what they should do if a banded bird is found.

After banding has been completed, they are taken on my nature paths where they can see bird nest, some active and some finished. They see the bird pools I designed myself and made of plastic with rock and small stones to create different water levels. Underground hoses are laid to get the water drip necessary to attract birds.

If weather is rainy I have a walk in basement where we can band and talk. Last year I spoke to 2,000 children.

The children leave to return to their class room wishing they could spend the day with me. Maybe they will go home with their first look at a Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting or Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Although a program like this takes many hours away from my regular banding, I feel it is so necessary to teach this to our young people. (If any bander would enjoy seeing my area (top of Musconetcong Mts.) they will be very welcome.)

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