

2014

President's Note

Vernon Kleen

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Leonard J. Soucy Jr.

I regret to inform you that one of the true old time raptor banders and wildlife rehabilitation pioneers, my dad Leonard J. Soucy, Jr. passed away in June.

Our rehab center, The Raptor Trust, has cared for more than 90,000 wild birds since its inception in 1982, and my dad's banding project in the Appalachians – The Kittatinny Mountains Raptor Banding Station – has banded more than 16,000 migrating raptors since it began in the early 70's (and is STILL going under his sub-permitees).

He was a close friend and colleague to many in the North American Bird Banding circles and was published in *NABB* on several occasions.

I'm hoping you will pass this message along to others at EBBA and its affiliates, and if it seems appropriate, to perhaps include a brief memorial to his stalwart advocacy of wild birds in an upcoming issue of *NABB* magazine.

Chris Soucy
Executive Director
The Raptor Trust



Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

Founded 1922

President's Notes

Many "moons" ago, when I was young, my father took on the responsibility of a 4-H Club in a small Nebraska community (pop. 150); one year (1949) the Club took on "bird-watching" as one of its activities. I still have the records of the birds I observed that year. My dad and I continued "birding" when we moved to the big city (Lincoln) and later on (in the mid 1950s) to an even bigger "community" on the Maryland side of Washington, DC. Back then "birding" was still an avocation that I pursued through high school and the first two years of college. Then, during the summer after my sophomore year, I was given my first opportunity to

go professional and worked as a wildlife aid at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (Laurel, MD).

It was those early experiences that brought me to the forefront of bird conservation and made it possible to receive my Federal Bird Banding Permit in 1960. I have had the privilege of working with birds and bird conservation in many locations for more than 50 years; the majority of that time was spent, professionally, in Illinois. Conservation is a way for those of us who really care about birds to promote the ideals and conservation ethics we believe in and to share them with everyone willing to listen and learn. There are many ways to ensure

the future for birds, so thank you all for your willingness to help in your own way (including banding). As for my particular banding, I maintain a two-fold operation: 1) a near-daily banding station at a junior college here in Springfield, IL, during the spring and fall months (with many undergraduate students earning extra credit for visiting the station, plus first-hand assistance from many volunteers including college staff and grad students) and 2) hummingbirds.

Now, for the second time, I am President of the Inland Bird Banding Association; the first was a two-year stint from 1979 to 1981. That WAS a long time ago. I would like to welcome the new IBBA Board members and especially thank those who have completed their terms. A couple of goals I would like to see IBBA meet are to have more banders prepare manuscripts for *NABB*, an increased membership and greater attendance at the annual meetings, I also hope that banders consider applying for the two grants available through IBBA each year (please check the IBBA website for details).

Finally, be sure to take some time every day throughout the year to enjoy the birds (even if just for a little bit).

Vernon Kleen

Past President's Notes

I have just returned from the annual meeting in Regina, Saskatchewan. It was an outstanding meeting with almost 50 individuals in attendance. The local hosts, Jared Clarke and Matt Tokarut, did an outstanding job coordinating the meeting's activities and putting together a very interesting program. The talks by Stuart Houston, one of North American's outstanding banders, and others were exciting. Between Stuart from Saskatchewan and Spencer Sealy of Manitoba, there was over 110 years of bird banding experience. Field trips were informative and enjoyable. It is always entertaining to watch Turkey Vultures vomit (on others...).

So technically, since this is after the annual meeting, I am no longer the President but now the

Past-President, so I guess I do not have to write this column any longer. That honor will now go to long-time bander and IBBA member, Vernon Kleen of Illinois. Vernon is no stranger to IBBA, having been president before. In fact, he was president when I attended my first IBBA meeting almost 40 years ago. I am not saying Vernon is old ... I am sure he will do an outstanding job. Also, new to the Board will be Tom Kashmer from Ohio as 1st Vice President. Tom has served as a Board member and Treasurer in the past. Our new Treasurer is Mike Eichmann from Illinois. Mike moves up from Board of Directors. In addition, Mike passed his NABC Bander certification while at this meeting. Congratulations Mike! New Board of Directors member is Dr. Steve Gabrey from Louisiana. This is Steve's first time on the Board. Since two Board positions were vacated; the Board has appointed two individuals to fill them. Richard Keith of Michigan will fill the remaining time of Mike Eichmann's position (one year) and Dr. Scott Rush of Mississippi will fill the remaining time of Vernon Kleen's position (two years). I want to thank these individuals for stepping up and helping the organization fulfill its mission. Please give them your support.

On the other side, I want to thank the following individuals for their service to the organization. Dr. David Cimprich has served IBBA as Board member, Treasurer, and 1st Vice President. He has worked long and hard for the organization. Eric Soehren of Alabama is ending his time as a Board member and has also done an excellent job. His new claim to fame is that he was the first member of the IBBA Board to attend a meeting via Skype. Technical problems prevented two others from hooking up for the meeting but the future is here. And finally, Brent Ortego of Texas is finishing up his term as Treasurer and Membership Secretary. Having served in this position, I know the time and effort involved. This is probably the position on the Board with the most work attached to it and Brent has done an excellent job. Thank you all.

Tom Bartlett
Past-President, IBBA