

2016

President's Notes

Vernon Kleen

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Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

Founded 1922

President's Notes

Annual Meetings!

By the time you read these notes, IBBA's 2016 meeting at Indiana's Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary will be history. Please be sure to read the "minutes" and other details that will appear in the next issue of *NABB*. I hope that your attendance at IBBA's annual meetings will be a high priority on your schedules.

Inland Flyway Review!

The first spring report of the "Inland Flyway Review" appears in this issue of *NABB*. The report includes results from six stations. In the years ahead it is hoped that more stations will participate. To be included, Inland station operators should request the report form (a very simple, easily completed, one-page form) by either snail mail or email. Many thanks for your interest and support. The due date for this fall's seasonal report is 28 Feb 2017.

Hummingbirds!

The 2016 hummingbird season, at least for me, was considerably less-productive than other recent years. However, there were some interesting 2016 returns including a female banded as an adult in 2008 (at least 9 years old), three females (two banded as adults and one HY) banded in 2009, three females (banded as adults) in 2011 and five more females (banded as adults) in 2012. As of this writing (early October), I have not yet received reports of any "stray" species. For you other hummingbird banders – how was your season?

Recollections!

During my early banding years (1960 through 1969) my home address was in Maryland and I was a member of the Eastern Bird Banding Association. In mid-1965 my

U.S. banding activities were interrupted for about four years while I was beckoned to spend two years in the Army and then another 1½ years as an avian biologist for the Smithsonian Institution on north Pacific Islands. However, for a three-month period in the fall of 1967, between the Army and Smithsonian Project, I had the privilege (along with two colleagues, Tom Heatley and Peter Kirmse) of banding migrant birds at two western Panama locations: Cerro Punta (about 6000' elevation on the west side of Mt. Chiriqui or Baru) and Almirante on the Caribbean coast. This was possible through a National Institute of Health grant to Dr. Horace Loftin (of Florida State University) to study avian diseases that could possibly be transmitted by these migrants to North America.

At Cerro Punta we were charged with banding as many North American migrants as possible; at Almirante the emphasis was to band five primary species: Gray Catbird and the four common species of thrushes (Swainson's, Gray-cheeked, Wood and Veery) and, to a lesser degree, the other migrants. We stayed in a private "cabin" owned by the Florida Audubon Society and were on our own for erecting the net lanes (about 20) and capturing the birds; at Almirante, we were part of the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory of Panama and its group of technicians which operated nearly 100 nets. It was a great pleasure to see (and catch) all these North American migrants as they passed through (or spent the winter in) Panama. In addition to the thrushes and catbirds we banded, large numbers of warblers (both eastern and western species), flycatchers, vireos, grosbeaks, buntings, orioles and sparrows. Of course, there were many

resident species captured that we were not familiar with (which we did not band) — and the field guides back then were not always adequate for prompt identification (the available guides were the *Birds of Columbia* and the *Birds of Mexico*); such species included antbirds, hummingbirds (and more hummingbirds), creepers, flycatchers, gnatwrens, seedeaters, grassquits, saltators, tanagers, xenops, etc. In the winter of 2014 (45 years later) I was able to make a repeat visit to the Cerro Punta area and even found the old Florida Audubon

Society “cabin”. What fond recollections; unfortunately, the entire area is now commercialized. Should anyone be interested, a report of that 1967 trip was printed in *EBBA News*, Vol. 32, No. 4 (July-August 1969).

Enjoy the birds! 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
IBBA President

Inland Flyway Review – Spring 2016 Report

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This is the first spring attempt to put together the “seasonal” Inland Flyway Review (IFR) Report, again, patterned—with permission—after the very successful reports of the Atlantic Flyway Review (AFR). The 2016 Spring Report includes information from six stations, three from Missouri and one each from Michigan, Illinois, and Tennessee. Only the Lake St. Clair Metropark (LSCMP) station has a lengthy history and even that has recently changed. Table 1 provides a summary of the basic information for the six stations; only three had more than 500 net hours and only the Illinois station was in operation more than 25 days during the season. Table 2 identifies the Top Ten most commonly banded species. No particular species stands out as being the overall most common amongst the station reports. But the total number of the top 10 species banded at each station was 60% or greater of the station’s total catch. Again, thinking to the future, this assemblage of station reports should be able to provide meaningful discussions on changing populations as well as first time and irregular occurrences.

Of course, many thanks to the compilers of these seasonal station reports. It was a pleasure to note the number of visitors to the various sites, especially interested college students.

Lake St. Clair Metropark (LSCMP) 423-0824

Harrison Twp., Macomb County, MI

Coordinator: **Allen T. Chartier**

Bander: **Allen T. Chartier**

Assistants: John Bieganowski, Andrea Charlebois, Jacob Charlebois, Annie Crary, Caitlyn Hogan, Stevie Kuroda, Dave Lancaster, Ava Lau, Harry Lau, Rose Lau, Tessa Lau, Marie McGee, Katie-Ann McKlinsky, Ann Ross, Edie Schmitz, Joan Tisdale, Bruce Watson, Blanche Wicke, Christian Zammit, Julian Zammit.

Address: 1442 West River Park Dr.

Inkster, MI 48141

Email address: amazilia3@gmail.com

Banding was conducted by Ellie T. Cox (deceased in 2012) at this location, then named Metro Beach Metropark (MBMP: 423-0824), from 1989-1999, in an area of swamp woods transitioning to wet meadow and cattail marsh (Point Rosa Marsh) at the end of a maintenance road in the park. She ran 11-14 nets over those years. The banding at this location was resumed by Allen T. Chartier in 2004 and continued through 2014, running 14 nets in the same area covering approximately seven acres, using as many of the previous net locations as was practical. The GPS coordinates of the “centroid” of the net setup are: 42° 34' 29.9" N, 82° 48' 31.5" W. In 2014, efforts to restore the hydrology of the marsh succeeded and flooded out the banding area year-round, which had always been difficult to access (very muddy with lots of water) in spring anyway. A comparison between these two decades of banding effort is being compiled, verified, and prepared for eventual publication.