



# *Inland Regional News*

***Inland Bird Banding Association***

**Founded 1922**

## **President's Notes**

As mentioned in an earlier message, my banding operations consist primarily of a two-fold operation: 1) a near-daily banding station at a local Community College during the spring and fall months, and 2) hummingbird festivals. At the end of this spring the banding station will be completing its third year; perhaps a brief seasonal report would be worthy for NABB in a manner similar to the individual reports of EBBA's Atlantic Flyway Review. For that matter, why could there not be an "Inland Flyway Review" consisting of Banding Station Reports from the IBBA area? Are there any other "Inland" banding stations willing to provide a synopsis of their seasonal banding activities? Please say "YES"!

As I prepare these notes, I have learned that the first-of-year hummingbirds (Ruby-throated in Illinois) have already returned. That means that hummingbird festivals are not too far behind. It is really amazing how popular these festivals have become and how everyone who has "lots" of hummingbirds wants to have a festival. The challenge becomes when to say "yes" (or "no") — and that usually depends on many factors: How many birds are visiting feeders at the site? Are there too many flowers present that could distract the birds from being captured? How far away the site is from my "home base" (Springfield)? What sort of public amenities (including parking) are available at the site? And can the festival be conveniently scheduled? To date, there are already 30+ Illinois

festivals scheduled from late May through early September and attendance ranges from as few as 20 persons to more than 300. Everyone loves hummingbirds.

**2015 Annual Meeting** – Please note that the 2015 Annual Meeting is being planned for early November in Mississippi. MARK your calendars and PLAN on attending – we would love to see you there, hear about your successful banding endeavors; and request your input at the meeting and your support of the Association. For that matter, why not consider presenting a paper? Also, encourage colleagues, students and volunteers to join you at the annual meetings and become active members of the Association as well.

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



**Ruby-throated Hummingbird**  
by George West