

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
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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 file 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