



# *Inland Regional News*

***Inland Bird Banding Association***

***Founded 1922***

## **President's Notes**

My Mentor! By now I am sure that everyone is aware that Chandler ("Chan") Robbins died on 20 March; he was just 17 months short of his 100th birthday. Chan (as everyone knew him) was my mentor. He was also mentor to others as well, but in particular David Bridge and Edmond (Ted) Styles. Of this trio, I was the newbie in Maryland having arrived in the spring of 1956 during my freshman year in high school and did not actually meet Chan until after high school. Dave Bridge and I were high school locker mates and ended up getting bird banding permits just after our 18th birthdays. Ted was four years younger and had a subpermit under Chan. Although Dave lived in Greenbelt, I lived in Beltsville (and later Laurel) and Ted lived in Laurel, we all lived close to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center – home of the Banding Lab as well as near Chan's office. In the early 1960s the three of us did some extensive heron, gull and tern banding on islands in and around Ocean City, MD; these efforts produced some very interesting recoveries (and banding stories).

Chan was instrumental in sharing with the three of us significant banding skills, information and most everything related to banding (available at that time). We even experienced Operation Recovery (O.R.) banding with him – mine was at the Ocean City (MD) station. One incident that will never be forgotten that Chan recorded in his Ocean City O.R. Newsletter, dated 22 Sep 1967 (paraphrased and condensed here) pertained to Hurricane Doria. The hurricane was supposed to go out to sea and not affect the mainland; however, that changed and the Maryland coast was expecting tides 4 ft above

normal. With this alert, the five of us working the O.R. station went back out there, removed 2/3 of the nets, raised the marsh nets much higher than usual (Bill Wiggins and I actually waded in waist-deep water to elevate the nets) and loaded all the station equipment in my van. On return to the motel, we learned that the tide was now projected to reach 8 ft above normal (the beach front at the motel was 11 ft above tide level), that the eye of Doria was to reach land 40 miles south of Ocean City at 3:00 am the next morning and everyone in Ocean City (including the motels) was ordered to evacuate. The five of us made a unanimous group decision not to evacuate. We were the only occupants in the motel that night. The next morning (according to Chan's report), Chan, Bill and I perched on the third floor of the Sea Charm Motel and watched the ocean through binoculars and spotting scope off and on for a good part of the day in hopes of finding some ocean birds close to shore. As it turned out, the news media greatly exaggerated the storm damage, much to the annoyance of the local merchants and there was negligible damage to the O.R. station which we quickly put back in operation the next afternoon. But, the entire event (and story he provided) will always be remembered.

Chan was also an ideal reference for all of my ornithological pursuits and as the Avian Ecologist for Illinois' Department of Natural Resources (for nearly 30 yrs). I patterned several programs, projects and activities here in Illinois from ideas he shared with me. He was a wonderful mentor.

Inland Flyway Review! The second fall report of the "Inland Flyway Review" appears in this issue

of NABB. The report includes results from five 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.

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 – Fall 2016 Report

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This is the second attempt to put together a “fall seasonal” Inland Flyway Review (IFR) Report. The first fall report included information from four stations; three (both of the Michigan stations and the Tennessee station) had long histories (including 25-year averages); the one from central Illinois had just completed its third year. For 2016 only two (the Illinois and Tennessee) stations submitted results again this year, plus, there were three new stations (one each from Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee). Table 1 provides a summary of the basic information for the five 2016 stations reporting.

Table 2 identifies the Top Ten most commonly banded species. American Goldfinch was at the top species list at two of the stations and Swainson’s Thrush was at the top species at the other three. At the Tennessee station, six of the top 10 species were warblers including Hooded, Cape May and Black-throated Blue for which a single representative of any of these at the Illinois station would have been noteworthy. Thrushes dominated at the Michigan and Ohio stations.

As usual, it is interesting to see how many volunteers assist at the stations and the large number of visitors which often include students (including college/university classes) being exposed to banding operations. Of course, many thanks to the compilers of these seasonal reports.

I hope the number continues to grow and that both long-standing as well as “young” stations provide regular seasonal reports.

### Lake St. Clair

423-0824

### Metropark (LSCMP)

Harrison Twp., Macomb County, MI

### Allen T. Chartier

1442 West River Park Dr., Inkster, MI 48141  
amazilia3@gmail.com

Assistants: Jenifer Benke, John Bieganowski, Terri Chapdelaine, Jacob Charlebois, Mike Charlebois, Carol Goodman, Jean Gramlich, Jim Greer, Stevie Kuroda, Dave Lancaster, Ava Lau, Harry Lau, Rose Lau, Tessa Lau, Kim Patrick, Bruce Watson, Blanche Wicke, Julian Zammit.

The early banding history of Metro Beach Metropark (MBMP: 423-0824), from 1989-1999 conducted by Ellie T. Cox (deceased in 2012), its transition to Lake St. Clair Metropark (LSCMP), the habitat descriptions and station operations appeared in the 2016 IFR Spring Report (NABB 41: No. 3).

As with previous banding at this park, an effort was made to band two days each week during Aug, Sept, Oct, and the first week of Nov in 2016. Out of a possible 26 days during that period, only 23 days were operated partly due to not getting enough volunteers to help set up the site (which must be taken down completely each day), but also due to uncooperative weather, which abbreviated efforts on four days.

With this being the first full fall season of effort at this new site, it might not make sense to compare numbers to the old site which – although very close by – has different habitat. Some interesting differences were noted, however, that may or may not prove to be consistent over time, which may be related to habitat. More relevant is a comparison with the 14 “experimental” days banding at this