

TABLE 1 — Annual Comparisons

Criteria	2000	1999	1998	Highest Total
Number of Species	266	262	259	269 (1996)
Number of Birds	533,335	588,646	517,330	593,680 (1996)
Number of Participating Counties	101	100	100	102 (2 yrs)
Number of Observers	1,448	1,479	1,495	1,611 (1997)
Number of Party Miles Walked	2,425	2,287	2,257	2,628 (1995)
Number of Party Miles Driven	23,295	23,305	23,774	23,774 (1998)
Total Number of Party Miles	25,720	25,592	26,035	26,035 (1998)
Number of Party Hours Walked	3,070	3,218	2,969	3,457 (1997)
Number of Party Hours Driven	1,996	1,932	2,140	2,140 (1998)
Total Number of Party Hours	5,066	5,150	5,109	5,565 (1997)
Species in 90% or more Counties	53	54	49	55 (1996)
Counties with 100 or more Species	77	74	69	80 (1997)
Counties with 20 or more Observers	20	19	18	24 (1998)
Highest Species total in single county	190	202	180	205 (1999)
Average # species/participating county	117	122	112	122 (1999)
Average # species for all 102 counties	116	120	110	120 (1999)

of all other counties of particular interest. Figure 1 also shows where counties (such as Clay, Ford, Marshall, Macoupin, Montgomery, Putnam, Stark and Wayne) that might benefit from more help are located. Table 3 provides the usual comparison of birding effort in each south-to-north quarter of the state.

Data Comparisons

After completing the Count, the first two questions normally asked are: how did we do this year in comparison to last year and what new records did we set? Of course, every year new records are expected and 2000 was no exception; however, 2000 was not a major record-setting year and none of the basic records were broken. Table 1 compares, for easy reference, the basic 2000 data with the same data for 1999, 1998 and the record-setting year. Species-wise, the 2000 total of 266 species was above average and only 3 short of the record (269 in 1996). The 533,000+ birds reported was only 10% below the 1996 record.

As a statewide bird-counting body, our goal of perfection has always been to have at least 1 party of observers in all 102 counties every year (this has been accomplished twice, thus far, in our 29-year history). We would have achieved the goal again this year if it hadn't been for a last-minute family illness. Cook

and Du Page Counties continued to be the only ones with 100 or more participants; however, another 18 counties were blessed with 20 or more (see Table 2). Finally, the 2000 calculations (the 3rd year for these calcu-

TABLE 2

Counties with 20 or more Participants

Cook	115	Winnebago	29
Du Page	106	Edgar	28
McDonough	64	Boone	26
McHenry	55	Pike	24
Lake	49	Jo Daviess	23
Schuyler	59	Knox	23
Will	44	Kendall	22
Kane	43	Iroquois	21
Champaign	38	Stephenson	21
Livingston	30		

lations) for the average number of species for participating counties, and, for all 102 counties combined were: 117 and 116, respectively (about _ between the 1998 & 1999 averages).

Common and Uncommon Species

Table 4 identifies the 53 species were reported from 90 or more counties; for the most part, these are the

TABLE 3

Area Coverage

AREA	Possible # of Counties	# Counties Participating	# Party Hours	Average # Party Hours Per County
1	23	23 (100%)	721	31.35
2	28	28 (100%)	1018	36.36
3	27	27 (100%)	1217	45.07
4	24	23 (96%)	2110	91.74
TOTAL	102	100 (99%)	5066	50.16

TABLE 4

Species Reported from 90 or more Counties

Great Blue Heron	99	Red-eyed Vireo	90	Common Yellowthroat	98
Turkey Vulture	101	Blue Jay	101	Eastern Towhee	97
Canada Goose	99	American Crow	101	Chipping Sparrow	100
Wood Duck	94	Horned Lark	97	Field Sparrow	98
Mallard	95	Purple Martin	90	Song Sparrow	99
Red-tailed Hawk	100	Tree Swallow	91	Wht-crowned Sparrow	91
Killdeer	101	N. Rough-wg Swallow	91	Northern Cardinal	101
Rock Dove	98	Barn Swallow	101	Rose-breast Grosbeak	95
Mourning Dove	101	Tufted Titmouse	98	Indigo Bunting	101
Chimney Swift	97	Wht-breasted Nuthatch	96	Red-winged Blackbird	101
Red-head Woodpecker	99	House Wren	95	Eastern Meadowlark	101
Red-bell. Woodpecker	98	Eastern Bluebird	100	Common Grackle	101
Downy Woodpecker	99	Wood Thrush	92	Brown-head Cowbird	101
Northern Flicker	96	American Robin	101	Baltimore Oriole	101
Eastern Wood-Pee-wee	94	Gray Catbird	100	House Finch	97
Eastern Phoebe	98	Brown Thrasher	100	American Goldfinch	101
Grt. Crested Flycatcher	93	European Starling	101	House Sparrow	101
Eastern Kingbird	98	Yellow-rump Warbler	91		