



*A single White-faced Ibis
was observed during
the 1994 Spring Bird Count
in Franklin County.*

Drawing by Leslie A. DeCoursey.

1994 STATEWIDE SPRING BIRD COUNT

by Dick Anderson

Regarding the 1993 Spring Bird Count, a compiler noted that the weather was "almost too good for outstanding birding." Not one observer made that comment after the 7 May 1994 count. A major front moved across the state from the early morning hours well into the afternoon which brought some form of rain and high winds to almost every county. Some counties experienced a clearing after the front passed. Temperatures were mostly in the 40s and 50s with only a few in the 60s. Wind speeds varied from 5 to 25 miles per hour. Hazel Clark of Hamilton County said the weather was "awful" with fog, rain, and wind.

The weather could have affected the number of observers; there were 1,377 ob-

TABLE 1
Annual Spring Bird Count Comparisons

Number of:	1994	1993	1992	Highest Total/ Yr(s)
Species	265	254	257	265 (90&94)
Total Birds	497,170	467,847	505,308	537,446 (1991)
Participating Counties	99	92	95	102 (1986)
Total Number of Observers	1,377	1,503	1,491	1,529 (1990)
Total Party Hours	4,989	5,245	5,228	5,245 (1993)
Party Miles Walked	2,049	2,390	2,604	2,604 (1992)
Party Miles Driven	22,503*	20,667	21,846	22,503 (1994)
Species in 90% or more Counties	46	49	49	49 (91-93)
Counties with 100 or more Species	65	74	71	74 (1993)
Counties with 20 or more Observers	16	19	17	23 (90-91)

* New High Count

servers this year, 126 less than last year. Only 16 counties had 20 or more participants compared to 19 last year. DuPage County led with 102 and Cook County followed with 92. In addition, observers walked 350 fewer miles and drove 833 more miles than last year. Observers should be commended for participating in 99 of 102 Illinois counties, seven more than last year. Only Monroe in Area 1, and Marion and Richland in Area 2 were missed. A total of 497,170 individual birds was reported, about 30,000 more than last year. There were 265 species reported this year, 11 more than last year and equal to 1990's high (See Table 1, left). There were 22 counties with 140 or more species and 6 counties with 160