

Interesting or Lacking Observations

One new species was found in 2010, a Neotropic Cormorant in Madison County. In addition, it was only the third time for Black Scoter on a Spring Bird Count. As with any year there were several new high counts both for the number of species reported and the number of counties detecting a given species. While the all-time high counts are interesting it is also important to note the species that were recorded in very low numbers.

- The total number of Northern Bobwhites continues to decline with only 548 found. This is one-fifth of the all-time high, and only 2 counties found more than 25 birds.

- The 59 Mississippi Kites found in Alexander County nearly broke the all-time high for all counties and was twice as much as the single county high established the previous year in the same county.

- Bald Eagle numbers continue to increase with the 233 reported being a new all-time high breaking the mark of 220 established on the 2009 Spring Bird Count.

- Two Black Rails and two Yellow Rails were found.

- A Purple Gallinule in an unlikely location in Woodford County was the 7th record of all-time.

- The Sandhill Crane population continues to increase with an all-time high of 76 recorded in McHenry County.

- Overall it appeared to be a good day (hopefully year) for shorebirds in Mason County with state highs for Lesser Yellowlegs; Spotted, Semipalmated, Least, and White-rumped Sandpipers; Dunlin; and Wilson's Phalarope.

- May 8th, 2010 was a good day in Illinois for Franklin's Gulls. A record high number of counties found Franklin's Gull and there were also highs in terms of the number of individuals.

- Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to expand with a record number of counties reporting them.

- A record number of 5 counties reported Barn Owls.

- Eastern Whip-poor-wills appear to be in serious decline in Illinois. Only 89 birds were detected with a high of 11 in Saline County. To put this in perspective the all-time single county high is 126 and the record count high is 719.

- There were relatively high counts for all the swallows, which is hopefully a good sign, but could have also been due to cool temperatures concentrating individuals in good foraging locations.

- Overall warbler numbers were a bit low possibly due to weather conditions.

- Painted Bunting was found for the second consecutive year and 5th year overall.

- Summer Tanagers continue to increase with a record number of individuals found throughout the state.

One of the more interesting data sets is the commonality of certain species. Though the numbers can be difficult to interpret due to differential effort though years, one approach is to simply rank how common a species is in a given year and compare that rank to previous years. In 2010, Red-winged Blackbirds retain the designation of being the most common and, in general, more swallows were detected than in the previous few years (Table 3).

Table 3. The relative rank of species in terms of abundance (top 20 in 2010) in a given year.

Species	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Red-winged Blackbird	1	1	1	1	1
American Robin	2	2	2	4	4
European Starling	3	4	4	3	3
Barn Swallow	4	8	11	14	12
Tree Swallow	5	6	13	15	10
Common Grackle	6	3	3	2	2
Canada Goose	7	5	5	6	5
Cliff Swallow	8	19	31	20	16
House Sparrow	9	7	6	7	6
American Goldfinch	10	10	7	8	8
No. Rough-winged Swallow	11	15	29	40	27
Brown-headed Cowbird	12	9	8	5	13
Bank Swallow	13	30	40	41	15
Northern Cardinal	14	11	10	10	9
Mourning Dove	15	12	9	9	7
Ring-billed Gull	16	14	14	31	32
Yellow-rumped Warbler	17	17	32	24	33
Indigo Bunting	18	13	12	11	14
Mallard	19	21	20	37	42
Chipping Sparrow	20	16	15	18	17