



The Illinois 1995 Spring Bird Count

by Richard Anderson

Contrasting last year's inclement weather were good birding conditions for the 1995 Spring Bird Count (SBC). Observers tallied many new SBC records. A late spring also probably accounted for a number of high counts for the early migrants and low counts for the later migrants, especially those species relying on insects for food.

A few counties reported low temperatures in the 40s but the average lows were in the 50s and the highs in the 70s. Except for a few sprinkles in southwestern counties, partly cloudy to sunny skies were reported.

Ninety-seven counties reported their findings, two less than last year and five less than the maximum (Table 1). Perhaps the good weather explains a new high of 1,548 observers (Table 2). Twenty-three counties had 20 or more participants; Du Page

Table 1. Area Coverage

AREA	Possible No. of Counties	No. Counties Participating	No. Party Hours	Ave. No. P.H.* Per County
1	23	21 (91%)	687	32.7
2	28	26 (92%)	856	32.9
3	27	27 (100%)	1528	56.6
4	24	23 (95%)	2350	102.2
TOTAL	102	97 (95%)	5421	55.9

* P.H. = Party Hours

Table 2. Annual Comparisons

Numbers	1995	1994	1993	Highest Total
Species	266	265	254	266 (1995)
Individual Birds	554,407	497,170	467,847	554,407 (1995)
Participating Counties	97	99	92	102 (1986)
Observers	1,548	1,377	1,503	1,548 (1995)
Party Hours	5,420	4,989	5,245	5,420 (1995)
Party Miles Walked	2,628	2,049	2,390	2,628 (1995)
Party Miles Driven	22,052	22,503	20,667	22,503 (1994)
Species in 90% or more Counties	47	46	49	49 (91-93)
Counties with 100 or more Species	76	65	74	76 (1995)
Counties with 20 or more Observers	23	16	19	23 (3 yrs)

Above, Pine Warbler drawing by Brian K. Willis.