

## Widespread Species

At least 49 species were reported in 9 out of every 10 counties (90%) this year. In this year's count, 9 species were reported from all 100 counties: Killdeer, Blue Jay, American Crow, Chipping Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, and House Sparrow.

The other most widespread species were: Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird, Horned Lark, Purple Martin, Barn Swallow, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Eastern Blue-

bird, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Eastern Towhee, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Eastern Meadowlark, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch, and American Goldfinch.

Twenty species have been identified as most abundant. When these species and their corresponding numbers are compared, some species are consistently in the "top-20", others are not. This year, all 20 have been in the "top 20" for 11 or more years; occasionally, a new species reaches the "top 20" level and last year the Palm Warbler reached this level for only the 3rd time. In 1998, the top two species were the same as in most past years.

Data from this count show that the top five species are nearly always the top five with numbers ranging from 20,000 to 70,000 birds. Also, a middle group of species (goldfinch, dove, cardinal, Blue Jay, crow, Barn Swallow, and cowbird) are nearly always in the top 20 and have fairly steady annual numbers within the range of 10,000 to 20,000 birds. A third group of species occasionally occurs high in the top 20 because of a migration phenomena (such as a fallout on count day), but more often are lower in the top 20 or do not make the list at all. Examples include the Ring-billed Gull, American Golden Plover, Yellow-rumped and Palm Warblers and Tree Swallows.

Canada Goose is now firmly established in 6th position; this species continues to gain in numbers and is within 5000 birds of being as com-

**TABLE 1 —**  
Species Account for the 1998 Spring Bird Count

Key to Table:

\*\* = New Spring Bird Count Species  
(CAPS & BOLD FACE)

\* = New Spring Bird Count High Total

# = Ties Spring Bird Count High Total

| Species                  | Total No. of<br>Co.s | Birds | High County (Total) |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-------|---------------------|
| Common Loon              | 19#                  | 50*   | Lake (#14)          |
| Pied-billed Grebe        | 59                   | 268   | Cook (33)           |
| Horned Grebe             | 4                    | 10    | Lake (5)            |
| Eared Grebe              | 2                    | 4#    | Winnebago (*3)      |
| <b>Western Grebe</b>     | 1#                   | 1#    | Boone (#1)          |
| American White Pelican   | 13*                  | 182   | Hancock (65)        |
| Double-crested Cormorant | 60                   | 5351  | Cook (1429)         |
| American Bittern         | 27                   | 42    | Jasper (6)          |
| Least Bittern            | 6#                   | 11#   | Massac (#4)         |
| Great Blue Heron         | 98                   | 3559  | Calhoun (255)       |
| Great Egret              | 49                   | 1877  | Will (344)          |
| Snowy Egret              | 5                    | 44*   | St. Clair (*22)     |
| Little Blue Heron        | 16                   | 121   | Madison (42)        |
| <b>Tricolored Heron</b>  | 1#                   | 1#    | Will (#1)           |
| Cattle Egret             | 29                   | 528   | St. Clair (258)     |
| Green Heron              | 79                   | 514   | Will (37)           |
| Black-crown Night-Heron  | 19                   | 891   | Cook (759)          |
| Yellow-crown Night-Heron | 7                    | 10    | Jackson (3)         |
| dark ibis, species       | 1                    | 1     | Du Page (1)         |
| Black Vulture            | 8*                   | 34    | Massac (13)         |

|                                  |     |        |                  |
|----------------------------------|-----|--------|------------------|
| Turkey Vulture                   | 97  | 3236*  | Pike (144)       |
| <b>Greater White-front Goose</b> | 1   | 1      | Pulaski (1)      |
| Snow Goose                       | 7   | 15     | St. Clair (5)    |
| Canada Goose                     | 96* | 18025* | Du Page (*2949)  |
| Mute Swan                        | 19  | 102    | Lake (48)        |
| <b>Tundra Swan</b>               | 1   | 3#     | Carroll (*3)     |
| Wood Duck                        | 90  | 2372   | Union (*274)     |
| Gadwall                          | 17  | 100    | Brown (20)       |
| American Wigeon                  | 7   | 25     | Monroe (7)       |
| Amer. Black Duck                 | 7   | 19     | Du Page (10)     |
| Mallard                          | 93  | 6208   | Du Page (909)    |
| Blue-winged Teal                 | 80  | 1974   | Monroe (215)     |
| Cinnamon Teal                    | 2*  | 2#     | Two counties (1) |
| Northern Shoveler                | 40  | 371    | Morgan (*117)    |
| Northern Pintail                 | 6   | 12     | Jersey (4)       |
| Green-winged Teal                | 15  | 40     | St. Clair (8)    |
| Redhead                          | 4   | 6      | Two counties (2) |
| Ring-necked Duck                 | 14  | 49     | Randolph (11)    |
| Greater Scaup                    | 2   | 3      | Lake (2)         |
| Lesser Scaup                     | 28  | 145    | McLean (16)      |
| Surf Scoter                      | 2   | 2      | Two counties (1) |
| Bufflehead                       | 11  | 34     | Two counties (7) |
| Hooded Merganser                 | 17  | 60     | Williamson (12)  |
| <b>Common Merganser</b>          | 1   | 1      | Lake (1)         |
| Red-breasted Merganser           | 22  | 2325*  | Lake (1276)      |
| <b>Ruddy Duck</b>                | 31  | 553    | La Salle (64)    |
| Osprey                           | 20  | 28     | Two counties (3) |
| Mississippi Kite                 | 5   | 26     | Two counties (8) |
| Bald Eagle                       | 19* | 55*    | Union (#14)      |
| Northern Harrier                 | 35  | 73     | McHenry (7)      |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk               | 46* | 92     | Lake (10)        |