

mon as the House Sparrow. It is also the only species in the top 20 to set a new high count total, surpassing last year's number by almost 1000 birds. If Spring Bird Count records were used as the primary figures for population estimates, the Canada Goose population would be 78% and 57% as large as the House Sparrow and European Starling populations, respectively.

Another noteworthy comparison is the Ring-billed Gull (in the top 20 for only the 14th time). Nearly twice as many birds were counted as last year.

One species that did not make the top 20 list is the Rock Dove.

### Least Common Species

At least 30 species were at the opposite extreme of the abundance curve, being reported from only one or two counties (21 and 9 species, respectively). Those reported from a single county appear in boldface in Table 1. Champaign County's Eurasian Collared-Dove is a first-time occurrence for this species, which brings the grand total of species for the Spring Bird Count up to 320 through 1998. This dove was still considered an "exotic" in last year's report. Please note the continued in-

clusion of the Ringed Turtle-Dove and Monk Parakeet (as exotics) in the table totals.

Other noteworthy singles this year were the Western Grebe (4th year), Tricolored Heron (2nd year), a dark ibis (1st year, but would have been the 4th for either of the two known species), Black-necked Stilt (4th year), Lesser Black-backed Gull (3rd year), and Western Kingbird (5th year). Some of the regulars not reported by anyone this year were: Canvasback, Common Goldeneye, Black-bellied Plover, Sanderling, Baird's Sandpiper, American Tree Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, and Lapland Longspur.

TABLE 1, continued

Species	Total No. of Co.s	Birds	High County (Total)	Species	Total No. of Co.s	Birds	High County (Total)
Cooper's Hawk	45*	163*	Du Page (22)	<b>Stilt Sandpiper</b>	1	1	Morgan (1)
Red-shouldered Hawk	29	83*	Union (11)	Short-billed Dowitcher	9	38	Williamson (12)
Broad-winged Hawk	35	91	Champaign (15)	Common Snipe	17	36	Two counties (5)
Swainson's Hawk	3#	6#	Kane (3)	American Woodcock	31	130	Two counties (18)
Red-tailed Hawk	99	1797*	Du Page (100)	Wilson's Phalarope	3	6	Clinton (3)
American Kestrel	90*	592	Cook (30)	Bonaparte's Gull	7	23	Lake (12)
Merlin	2	2	Two counties (#1)	Ring-billed Gull	63*	16405	Cook (7560)
Peregrine Falcon	9*	10*	Pulaski (2)	Herring Gull	14	1617	Cook (719)
Gray Partridge	3	7	Lee (4)	Thayer's Gull	12#	3	Lake (2)
Ring-necked Pheasant	64	808	Ford (91)	<b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b>	1	1	Lake (1)
<b>Greater Prairie-Chicken</b>	1	46	Jasper (46)	<b>Glaucous Gull</b>	1	3	Lake (*3)
Wild Turkey	65	516	Jo Daviess (57)	Great Black-backed Gull	2#	2	Two counties (1)
Northern Bobwhite	87	1368	Crawford (114)	Caspian Tern	17	1573*	Lake (*823)
<b>Yellow Rail</b>	1	1	Knox (1)	Common Tern	11	183	Lake (125)
King Rail	4	5	Madison (2)	Forster's Tern	28	579	Lake (309)
Virginia Rail	11	51	Two counties (10)	Black Tern	10	42	La Salle (10)
Sora	44	317	Lake (42)	Rock Dove	99*	5446	Cook (1115)
Common Moorhen	8	21	Monroe (6)	<b>EUR COLLARED-DOVE</b>	1*	1*	Champaign (*1)
American Coot	82	4628	Brown (460)	Mourning Dove	99	11877	La Salle (443)
Sandhill Crane	12*	136*	McHenry (38)	Black-billed Cuckoo	15	25	Two counties (5)
American Golden-Plover	10	888	Champaign (377)	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	62	384	Union (85)
Semipalmated Plover	19	54	Massac (11)	<b>Barn Owl</b>	1	3#	Union (#3)
Killdeer	100	3593	Kane (125)	Eastern Screech-Owl	45	107	Union (19)
<b>Black-necked Stilt</b>	1#	1	Kendall (1)	Great Horned Owl	74	258	Union (18)
Greater Yellowlegs	34	266	Pulaski (46)	Barred Owl	72	407	Union (*66)
Lesser Yellowlegs	51	488	Logan (32)	<b>Long-eared Owl</b>	1	1	Lee (1)
Solitary Sandpiper	58	305	Lake (35)	<b>Short-eared Owl</b>	1	2	Jasper (2)
Willet	4	4	Four counties (1)	Common Nighthawk	60	314	Richland (20)
Spotted Sandpiper	58	498	Lake (74)	Chuck-will's-widow	15#	48	Union (18)
Upland Sandpiper	7	14	Edgar (4)	Whip-poor-will	59	454	Union (90)
Semipalmated Sandpiper	11	50	Gallatin (11)	Chimney Swift	97	6695	Cook (415)
Least Sandpiper	31	229	Two counties (23)	Ruby-thr Hummingbird	79	747	Schuyler (55)
White-rumped Sandpiper	2	6	Two counties (3)	Belted Kingfisher	85	389	Three counties (18)
Pectoral Sandpiper	17	100	Brown (25)	Red-headed Woodpecker	99	2594	McDonough (191)
Dunlin	4	19	Monroe (9)	Red-bellied Woodpecker	99	2410	McDonough (131)