afternoon or evening and five southern counties reported light drizzles (after 6:30 p.m., but, enough to dampen birding there).

Counters in Clinton, DeKalb, Franklin and Jo Daviess counties began their counts at midnight; counting had begun by 3:00 a.m. in twelve more counties and by 5 a.m. in another 38. Overall, 65 counties recorded at least some pre-dawn owling hours (before 5:30 a.m.). Of the remaining 35 counties, most began at dawn or shortly thereafter; only 14 began as late as 6 a.m. or later and two of these at 8 and 9:30 a.m., respectively. At least 25 counties recorded owling hours after dusk (after 8:30 p.m.) with four continuing as late as 11 p.m. The final tally of statewide owling time was 156 hours.

Table 1 compares the overall Count results with those of the past two years and the record year. This year was not a record-setting year for any of the sixteen listed categories. Even though there was a paucity of migrant land birds on count day, there were only 20,000 fewer birds this year than last year; and with 66 fewer observers this year, the former figure translates into a mere 303 fewer birds for each of those 66 participants. (Aren't you glad to know that?) Another interesting observation, the number of parties on this year's count is precisely one half the number of

Figure 1 is a visual reference to how well we did. The upper number in each county is the number of species reported in the county; the lower number (in parentheses) is the number of observers. Figure 1 makes it easy to compare county results and to identify those counties where more assistance would be welcomed — especially those with four or fewer observers (note Greene and Saline in particular) and fewer than 100 species.

**TABLE 1: Annual Comparisons** 

Criteria	2005	2004	2003	Highest Total
Number of Species	261	266	261	269 (1996)
Number of Birds	534,609	554,507	559,486	593,680 (1996)
Number of Participating Counties	100	94	101	102 (2 yrs)
Number of Observers	1356	1422	1362	1611 (1997)
Number of Party Miles Walked	2335	2176	2424	2628 (1995)
Number of Party Miles Driven	21,248	22,442	22,608	23,942 (2001)
Total Number of Party Miles	23,583	24,618	25,032	26,401 (2001)
Number of Party Hours Walked	3068	2960	2975	3457 (1997)
Number of Party Hours Driven	1821	1910	1880	2140 (1998)
Total Number of Party Hours	4889	4870	4855	5565 (1995)
No. of Species in 90 or more Counties	51	32	48	55 (1996)
No. of Counties with 100 or more speci	es 80	72	80	80 (3 yrs)
No. of Counties with 20 or more observ	ers 17	20	21	24 (1998)
Highest Species Total in Single County	186	191	184	205 (1983)
Average # of species/participating Coun	ty 120	121	120	122 (1999)
Average # of species for all 102 countie	s 117	112	119	120 (1999)

