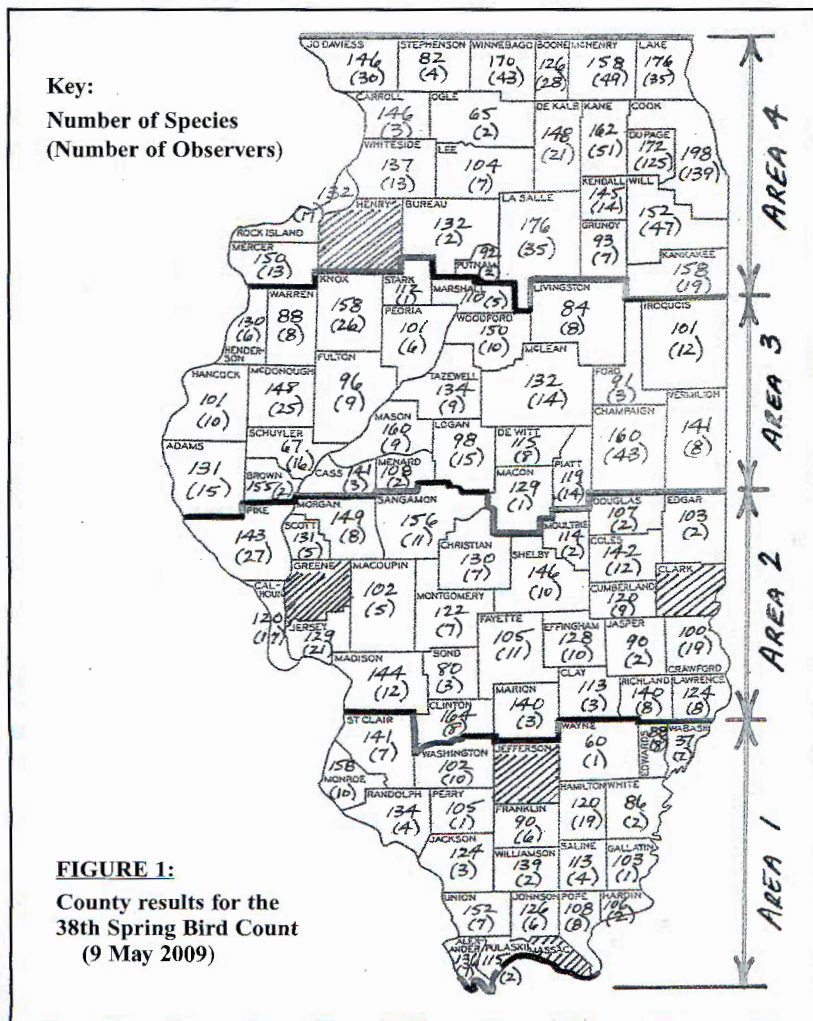


TABLE 1: Annual Comparisons

Criteria	2009	2008	2007	Highest Total
Number of Species	265	268	267	269 (1996)
Number of Birds	522,237	517,017	562,396	593,680 (1996)
Number of Participating Counties	97	100	100	102 (2 years)
Number of Observers	1,330	1,323	1,426	1,611 (1997)
Party Miles Walked	2,366	2,463	2,285	2,628 (1995)
Party Miles Driven	22,424	22,284	23,739	23,942 (2001)
Total Party Miles	24,790	24,747	26,024	26,401 (2001)
Party Hours Walked	3,566	3,048	3,196	3,566 (2009)
Party Hours Driven	1,910	1,973	1,957	2,140 (1998)
Total Party Hours	5,476	5,021	5,153	5,565 (1995)
No. Species found in 90 or more Counties	46	55	60	60 (2007)
No. of counties w/ 100 or more species	80	76	85	85 (2007)
No. of Counties with 20 or more observers	16	18	22	24 (1998)
Highest Species Total in Single county	198	191	177	205 (1983)
Average # of species/participating county	124	121	126	126 (2007)
Average # of species for all 102 counties	118	119	124	124 (2007)



but, by afternoon had changed to 3-10 mph from many directions, but, predominantly from the east. Mid-state and southern reports indicated a fairly standard speed and direction: 5-25 mph from the west/northwest. The sky for count day was extremely variable; in the northern counties it ranged from cloudy and partly cloudy in the morning to clear, partly cloudy, or cloudy in the afternoon; in mid-state it was cloudy to partly cloudy in the morning then changed to less cloudy by afternoon; in the extreme southern counties it was overcast early then changed to partly cloudy as the day progressed. The only moisture reported came in the morning as a very light trace throughout the south plus intermittent traces in central and northern counties.

As the clock struck midnight Friday night birders in Clinton, DeKalb and Knox counties were already listening for owls and rails; they were joined 15 minutes later by at least one birder in Fayette County. By 3 a.m., birders in eight more counties were owling and whip-poor-willing, or nighthawking, or woodcocking, or mockingbirding, or listening to the cuckoos as they flew overhead. By dawn, approximately 5:15 a.m., in exactly one-half (51) of the state's counties had reported some "owling" time. Of the remaining counties, birding began by 6 a.m. in 38 and after 6 a.m. by the last eight. At least 35 counties recorded some owling/railing hours after dusk at about 8:30 p.m., with 20 continuing until 10 p.m. or later and two (Adams and Mercer) until midnight.

Table 1 compares the overall count results with those of the past two years and the record year. Perhaps because count day was such a nice day counters set a new record for the number of party hours walked. As has often happened, we were once again very close to the top record for the total number of species – four short of tying the record. The 2009 count did show a slight gain over last year in the total number of birds reported