

TABLE 2:**Counties with 150 or more species****Northern Counties (Area 4)**

Cook	186
Lake	172
DuPage	162
Will	159
La Salle	157
Kane	159
Winnebago	153
McHenry	151

Central Counties (Areas 2 & 3)

Clinton	165
Macon	163
Champaign	157
Knox	156
Madison	152
Brown	151
Coles	150

Southern Counties (Area 1)

Williamson	164
St. Clair	155
Union	155
Massac	153

Notes:**Other counties with 140-149 species**

Adams	147
Carroll	146
Jackson	143
Jo Daviess	145
Mason	146
McDonough	145
McLean	140
Randolph	143
Sangamon	143
Vermilion	149

TABLE 3:**Counties with 20 or more Participants**

Cook	134	Winnebago	33
DuPage	118	Jo Daviess	31
Will	59	Boone	30
McHenry	48	LaSalle	28
Schuyler	48	Crawford	22
Kane	42	DeKalb	22
Lake	40	Pike	21
Champaign	38	Knox	20
McDonough	37		

TABLE 4 – Area Coverage

AREA	Possible # of Counties	# Counties Participating	# Party Hours	Average # Party Hours Per County
1	23	22 (96%)	557	25.32
2	28	27 (96%)	876	32.44
3	27	27 (100%)	1225	45.37
4	24	24 (100%)	2231	92.96
TOTAL	102	100(98%)	4889	48.89

observers. The one high in this table, which ties two previous years, indicates that 80 (80%) of the 100 reporting counties were able to achieve the second goal of the Count—the confirmation of 100 or more species in the county. Looking at the other numbers, some of the gains since last year include the number of participating counties, the number of party miles and hours “walked” (as might be expected with good weather), the number of species in 90 or more counties and the average number of species for all 102 counties (which should be expected with six more participating counties than last year). The modest number of only 261 confirmed species reflects the absence of (or at least the inability to find) several species that are often reported such as rare gulls along Lake Michigan, late-arriving spring migrants (especially flycatchers and shorebirds), and rarer breeding species (Gray Partridge, Swainson’s Hawk, Purple Gallinule, Barn and Short-eared owls, Painted Bunting, and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher). [Please note the “Species Missed” account near the end of this report for more details.]

Table 2 identifies those counties with 150 or more species. Cook County retained the premier position with 186 species (which is 5 fewer than last year); the Black Duck, Merlin, and Le Conte’s Sparrow were the only species attributed solely to Cook County. Lake County, which usually challenges Cook, reported only 172

species, way low for this traditional high-count county; the two Lake County-only species were the Greater Scaup and “white-winged” gull (countable since there were no other white-winged gulls reported). In the other AREA 4 counties DuPage was third with 162 species and followed by Will, LaSalle, Kane, Winnebago and McHenry. Clinton County led the AREA 2 & 3 counties with 165 species; Macon was a very close second with 163. Others included Champaign, Knox, Madison, Brown and Coles. Williamson County led the AREA 1 counties with 164 species and was followed by St. Clair, Union and Massac. Massac’s impressive tally was achieved by a single observer. For the record, another 11 counties provided a confirmed list of 140 to 149 species. The highest species count for a single county remains at 205 (set in 1983).

Table 3 identifies, in descending order, the counties with 20 or more participants. In years past this table included 20 or more counties; however, only 17 qualified in 2006. Cook and DuPage counties continue to field 100 or more participants. After those high counts the number of participants in each county declines sharply. [And, as indicated every year, observers in all of these well-endowed counties are encouraged to become regular participants in one of the less-endowed counties. As the results in the various tables are reviewed, it seems natural that several more records could be established if there were more observers in some of the less-endowed counties. Figure 1 provides an easy reference to determine where more assistance would be useful and there’s been a specific plea for regular assistance in Grundy County. Of course, special thanks to those of you who have already made the transition and stayed true to your new county.]