

**TABLE 1: Annual Comparisons**

Criteria	2008	2007	2006	Highest Total
Number of Species	268	267	261	269 (1996)
Number of Birds	517,017	562,396	534,609	593,680 (1996)
Number of Participating Counties	100	100	100	102 (2 yrs)
Number of Observers	1323	1426	1356	1611 (1997)
Number of Party Miles Walked	2463	2285	2335	2628 (1995)
Number of Party Miles Driven	22,284	23,739	21,248	23,942 (2001)
Total Number of Party Miles	24,747	26,024	23,583	26,401 (2001)
Number of Party Hours Walked	3048	3196	3068	3457 (1997)
Number of Party Hours Driven	1973	1957	1821	2140 (1998)
Total Number of Party Hours	5021	5153	4889	5565 (1995)
No. of Species in 90 or more Counties	55	60	51	60 (2007)
No. of Counties with 100 or more species	76	85	80	85 (2007)
No. of Counties with 20 or more observers	18	22	17	24 (1998)
Highest Species Total in Single County	191	177	186	205 (1983)
Average # of species/participating County	121	126	120	126 (2007)
Average # of species for all 102 counties	119	124	117	124 (2007)

than the record number in 1996 and 45,000 fewer than last year – perhaps this can be explained by the lower than usual number of observers (the lowest number since 1983 and 100+ fewer than even last year). Another 2008 positive was the number of party miles walked which increased considerably over other recent years despite the reduced number of observers.

As usual, Figure 1 is a visual reference to how well we did. The larger number in each county is the number of species reported in the county; the smaller 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 Clark and Edgar counties in particular) and fewer than 100 species. Although we fully anticipated participants in all 102 counties again this year, like last year, we fell two counties short.

Table 2 identifies those counties with 150 or more species. Cook County earned “top” honors again this year with 191 species (14 more than it had in its premier position last year); despite its large species total, the American Black Duck was the only species attributed solely to Cook County. Lake County, which often challenges Cook, tallied 184 species including seven species not reported elsewhere (Yellow and Black Rails, Ruddy Turnstone, Thayer’s and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Black-legged Kittiwake, and Brewer’s Blackbird). In the other AREA 4 counties DuPage was third with 169 species and was followed with 150 or more in four other counties. Clinton County led the central counties (AREAS 2 & 3) with 176 species; Brown was a distant second with 157; four others achieved 150 or more. Williamson County led the southern group of counties (AREA 1) with 169 species and was followed by five more with 150 or more; Massac County’s impressive tally of 151 species was achieved by a single observer. For the record, another 8 counties provided confirmed lists of 140 to 149 species and another 9 tal-

