every county every year, and to receive a confirmed list of 100 or more species from every county on count day. These goals may be a challenge, but, at least they are achievable. In regards to the first goal, the 2001 contingency fielded two or more teams (parties) with 5 or more observers in 86 counties; as for the remaining 16 counties, there was at least one team (sometimes a single observer) in 15, but (because of arthritis) the 16th went without its hoped-for observer. As for the second goal, 100 or more species were achieved in 69 counties (which is 11 short of the record and 33 short of the ultimate goal). See Figures 1 and 2.

RESULTS

Weather. Count day was a very pleasant day but highly variable across the state. In some areas (south) the skies were clear to partly cloudy in the morning and partly cloudy to overcast in the afternoon; or (west) partly cloudy all day; or (northwest) cloudy to overcast in the morning and only partly cloudy in the afternoon; and (northeast) varying from cloudy to partly cloudy all day. Moisture consisted solely of light and very scattered morning showers in the north and northwest and mid-to-late afternoon showers in the west and southwest. Temperatures were extremely comfortable ranging from the high 40s and low 50s to the mid-to-upper 70s in the northern counties and from the mid-to-upper 50s to upper 70s to low 80s in the central and southern counties. Wind was extremely variable: mostly southerly (5-15 mph) in the south, southerly to westerly (5-25 mph) in the west, and easterly or southwesterly (5-25 mph) in both the northwest and northeast. In some instances, the wind changed 180 degrees during the course of the day.

Highest County Counts. Count day 2001(5 May) was on the early side of the Count Day Window (4-10 May) and 2002 will be the earliest date possible. The early date, thought to be a benefit for southern Illinois birders in a competitive sense, turned out (as usual) to be much better for northern counties than southern counties. For that matter, count day (and perhaps most of the entire spring season) was rather lackluster because of the apparent paucity of should-be migrants. All counties did poorly compared with other years, and the total statewide species count was a mediocre 257. Cook County did retain its top position with a modest 184 species and Lake County followed with an even more modest 172. The other counties with 150 or more species were Union (165), Will (162), Du Page (161), Knox (156), Clinton (154), Winnebago (153), Champaign (151), La Salle (150), and McHenry (150). There were also two counties with 149 and four more with 148 species. Seven of 11 counties with 150 or more species were in the northern quarter of the state, three were in the center half of Illinois, and only one was in the southern quarter. In 1999 and 2000, there were, respectively, 17 and 12 counties with 150 or more species.

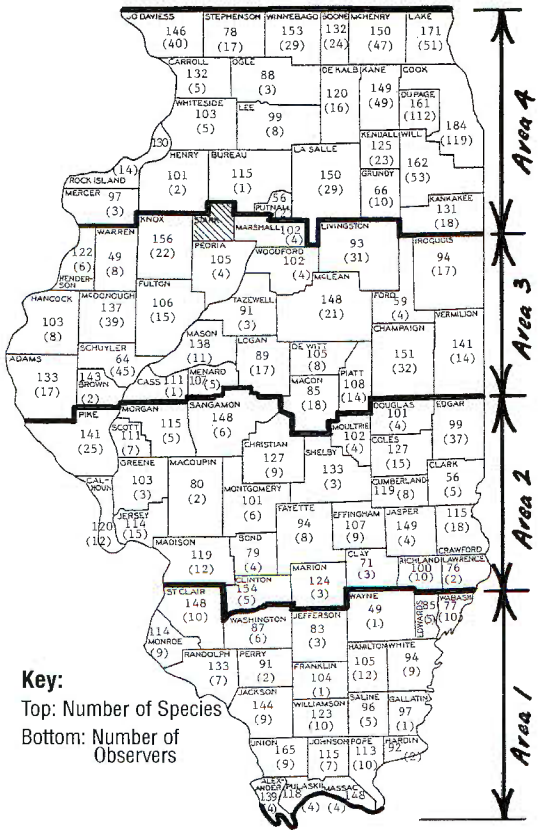

Figure 1. County participation in the 30th Annual Statewide Spring Bird Count 5 May 2001.

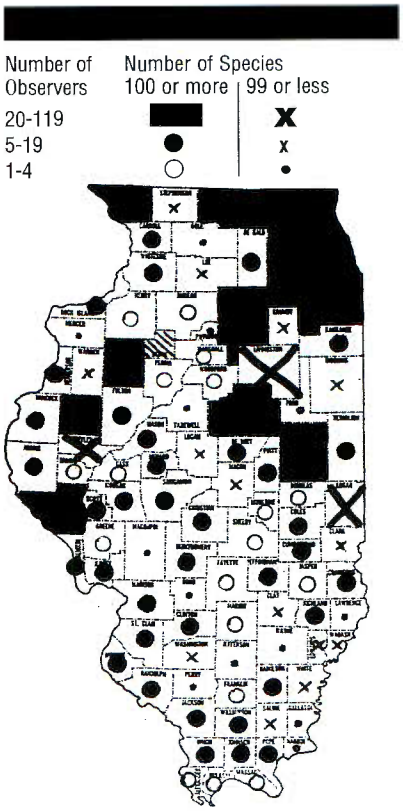

Figure 2.

Figures 1 and 2. The best visual of how well everyone did on count day this year is found in Figure 1. The first number signifies the total number of species identified and the second number, the number of observers. A major benefit of this Figure is that it can be used to quickly compare the results of one county with results of any other county. It also helps to visualize just how far away some of the counties are from where more birding assistance would be helpful; however, Figure 2 may show the same information more dramatically.

Table 1 and Figure 3. Table 1 shows the 2001 statewide results and compares those results with the last two years and the official state records. The only new records in this table for 2001 were the number of party miles driven