

lied 130 to 139 species. The record for the greatest number of species for a single county remains at 205 (set in 1983).

Table 3 identifies, in descending order, the counties with 20 or more participants. The list this year contains 18 counties (4 fewer than

last year); Cook and DuPage continue to field 100 or more participants. After the two high counts the number of participants in each county declines sharply. [And, once again, the annual plea: observers in all of the well-endowed counties are invited (encouraged) to become regular participants in one of the less-endowed counties. As the results in the various tables are scrutinized, it seems natural that more records could be established if there were more observers in some of the less-endowed counties. Figure 1 provides a quick reference to determine where more assistance would be useful; please note the absence of 2008 reports from Clark and Edgar counties this year. Of course, special thanks to those of you who have already made the transition and stayed true to your new counties and to those of you who made the change this year.]

Table 4 provides the usual comparisons of birding efforts in each quarter of the state—identified in Figure 1 as AREAS 1 through 4 (south to north). In 2008, the average number of party hours per county dropped slightly to 50.2 (compared to 51.5 in 2007).

Table 5 identifies the 55 species reported from 90 (90%) or more of the reporting counties. Only 17 (31%) of these were reported from all 100 counties; another 7 (13%) were reported from all but one county. For some reason, several species (such as the Mallard, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Rock Pigeon, Chimney Swift, Northern Flicker, Horned Lark, Purple Martin, Barn Swallow, Tufted Titmouse, House Wren, Eastern Bluebird, White-throated Sparrow, and House Finch) escape detection in some of the counties. Even the House Sparrow was missed in two counties this year.

Table 6 shows, in descending order, the 20 most commonly reported species. The Red-winged Blackbird continues to be the most common species. The next nine are often the same year after year but change positions. This year the robin moved back into second place ahead of the grackle and starling; the latter two dropped to third and fourth places, respectively. The Canada Goose remains entrenched in fifth place well ahead of the House Sparrow. The House Sparrow moved back into sixth position with decreasingly lower numbers each of the last four years and only about 40% of the record number reported only six years ago. The American Goldfinch remained in the top ten as did the Brown-headed Cowbird (for only the second time). The Ring-billed Gull, which has recently occurred in the top ten dropped to 14th place this year and the Mourning Dove moved up into the ninth position ahead of the tenth place cardinal. The lower ten of the top 20 continues to show considerable variation.

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

Cook	191
Lake	184
DuPage	169
Winnebago	167
La Salle	160
Kane	158
McHenry	155

Central Counties (Areas 2 & 3)

Clinton	176
Brown	157
Champaign	154
Mason	154
Madison	152
Knox	150

Southern Counties (Area 1)

Williamson	169
Union	166
Monroe	165
Jackson	155
Massac	151
Randolph	151

Notes:

Other counties with 130-149 species

Carroll	147
Coles	139
Jo Daviess	140
Johnson	136
Kankakee	146
Kendall	133
Lawrence	132
McDonough	133
McLean	141
Mercer	147
Richland	135
Rock Island	133
St. Clair	148
Sangamon	134
Shelby	139
Vermilion	142
Will	147

TABLE 3:
Counties with 20 or more Participants

Cook	147	La Salle	26
DuPage	103	Jo Daviess	25
McHenry	57	Jersey	24
Will	48	Pike	24
Lake	41	Boone	23
Champaign	40	Kendall	23
Kane	36	Schuyler	23
Winnebago	31	Knox	22
McDonough	27	Kankakee	21

TABLE 4 – Area Coverage in 2008

AREA	Possible # of Counties	# Counties Participating	# Party Hours	Average # Party Hours Per County
1	23	23 (100%)	601	26.1
2	28	26 (93%)	871	31.1
3	27	27 (100%)	1121	41.5
4	24	24 (100%)	2429	101.2
TOTAL	102	100 (98%)	5022	50.2