

13 more tallied 130 to 139 species. The record for the greatest number of species for a single county still stands at 205, set in 1983.

**Table 3** identifies, in descending order, the counties with 20 or more participants. The list this year contains 16 counties (two fewer than last year); Cook and DuPage continue to field 100 or more participants. After these two, the number of participants in the other counties declines sharply.

**Table 4** provides the usual comparisons of birding efforts in each quarter of the state (delineated in Figure 1 as AREAS 1 through 4--south to north). In 2009, the average number of party hours per county increased to 56.0—compared with 50.2 in 2008— primarily because birders spent considerable more time walking this year.

**Table 5** identifies the 60 species reported from 87 (90%) or more of the reporting counties. Only 19 (32%) of these were reported from all 97 counties; another 8 (13%) were reported from all but one county. For some reason, several species including the Mallard, American Kestrel, Rock Pigeon, Northern Flicker, Horned Lark, Purple Martin, Tufted Titmouse, House Wren, White-throated Sparrow and House Finch escape detection in some of the counties. Even the House Sparrow was missed in one county this year.

**Table 6** shows, in descending order, the 20 most commonly reported species. The Red-winged Blackbird continues to be reported as the most common species. The next nine are often the same year after year but do occasionally change positions; however, the Tree Swallow and Barn Swallow jumped into the mix this year. The robin retained second place ahead of the third place grackle and fourth place starling. The Canada Goose remained entrenched in fifth place well ahead of the House Sparrow, by nearly 6,000 birds. The House Sparrow dropped to seventh position, even though there were more birds reported this year than last year,

because the Tree Swallow out-performed this year. The Barn Swallow made a good showing as well this year and reached the eighth position. The American Goldfinch and Brown-headed Cowbird remained in the top 10 and would have been in 7th and 8th positions had it not been for the surge of the two swallow species, which also accounts for the Northern Cardinal and Mourning Dove dropping out of the top 10 positions. Indigo Bunting is hanging in there at 13th place. Something must be happening to the Ring-billed Gull population. Their numbers just aren't like they used to be. However the species did rank in 14th place. Another swallow, the Rough-winged, made the top 20 as well; this is only its sixth time in the table. The lower ten of the top 20 often shows considerable variation. This year,

though, it's pretty much the same as last year; the only two species last year not on the list this year are the Mallard and Chimney Swift and their replacements are the Rough-winged Swallow and Yellow-rumped Warbler. The only species in the top 20 this year reported in record numbers is the robin. For those who keep track, the American Crow ranked 26th this year and missed the top 20 list for the sixth consecutive year. The Double-crested Cormorant, which had ranked high for several years, was way out of the picture. During the count's 38-year history, 43 species have appeared in the top 20 list, eight of which have made the list only one time.

**Table 7** provides the maximum species details for the number of counties reporting the species; the

**TABLE 4 – Area Coverage in 2009**

AREA	Possible # of Counties	# Counties Participating	# Party Hours	Average # Party Hours Per County
1	23	21 (91%)	509	24.2
2	28	26 (93%)	927	35.7
3	27	27 (100%)	1,623	60.1
4	24	23 (96%)	2,417	105.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>97 (95%)</b>	<b>5,436</b>	<b>56.0</b>

**TABLE 5: Species Reported from 87 (90%) or more Counties in 2009**

Canada Goose	96	Horned Lark	89	Common Yellowthroat	94
Mallard	87	Tree Swallow	92	Scarlet Tanager	87
Great Blue Heron	97	No. Rough-wg Swallow	87	Eastern Towhee	97
Turkey Vulture	97	Barn Swallow	96	Chipping Sparrow	97
Red-tailed Hawk	97	Tufted Titmouse	93	Field Sparrow	95
Killdeer	97	White-breasted Nuthatch	96	Song Sparrow	91
Rock Pigeon	91	Carolina Wren	87	White-throated Sparrow	87
Mourning Dove	97	House Wren	90	White-crowned Sparrow	93
Chimney Swift	97	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	95	Northern Cardinal	96
Ruby-thr Hummingbird	93	Eastern Bluebird	97	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	93
Red-headed Woodpecker	89	Swainson's Thrush	87	Indigo Bunting	97
Red-bellied Woodpecker	95	Wood Thrush	87	Red-winged Blackbird	97
Downy Woodpecker	94	American Robin	97	Eastern Meadowlark	97
Northern Flicker	90	Gray Catbird	96	Common Grackle	97
Eastern Phoebe	95	Brown Thrasher	95	Brown-headed Cowbird	97
Great Crested Flycatcher	92	European Starling	97	Orchard Oriole	87
Eastern Kingbird	97	Yellow Warbler	87	Baltimore Oriole	96
Warbling Vireo	90	Yellow-rumped Warbler	87	House Finch	91
Blue Jay	97	Black-&-white Warbler	87	American Goldfinch	97
American Crow	96	American Redstart	87	House Sparrow	96