



Introduction

Illinois' 34th annual statewide Spring Bird Count was held on Saturday, 7 May 2005. Weather-wise it was a great day for the Count. Early morning temperatures ranged from the upper 40s and lower 50s in the north and lower- to mid-50s in the south then peaked in the upper 70s and lower 80s throughout the state (except for Lake County which reached a high of only 57 degrees). The southern half of Illinois was cloud-free nearly all day with modest S-SW winds (usually less than 10 mph with occasional gusts up to 20 mph); the rest of the state was mostly sunny or partly cloudy (with a bit of overcast) and light winds predominantly from the W-SW except for those counties on/near Lake Michigan where the prevailing winds drifted in from a northerly or easterly direction.

Nocturnal counting (that time before dawn and after dusk referred to as owling hours) began exactly at

"Sutton's" Warbler is a rare hybrid of the Northern Parula and Yellow-throated Warbler. Not only was it documented the first time in Illinois, but also the first time on the Illinois Spring Bird Count. This photo taken by Eric Secker is likely one of few taken of this hybrid.

American White Pelican numbers on the Illinois Spring Bird Count continue to rise. This photo was taken 14 April 2005 by Travis A. Mahan.

The 2004 Illinois Statewide Spring Bird Count

by Vernon M. Kleen

midnight (0000 hours) in 4 counties (Clinton, Crawford, Jo Daviess and Knox), had begun by 3 a.m. (0300) in 14 more counties, and 5 a.m. (0500) in another 44 counties. Over all, "owling" time was reported in 69 counties, 66 prior to dawn (before 5:30 a.m.) and 25 after dusk (after 8:30 p.m.); in three counties owling time occurred only after dusk. Winnebago was the only county where owling continued until midnight (2400 hours).

Although artificial, two Spring Bird Count goals are 1) to have at least one team (preferably two or more teams) and five or more observers in all 102 counties each year; and 2) to have a confirmed list of 100 or more species from every county each year. Both goals are a challenge to achieve, but not impossible. In 2005 we fell a bit short of the first goal by receiving reports from only 95 counties; and then, data from only 94 were usable since one county had to be disqualified

because it did not meet the minimum duration of count standard of at least 8 daylight hours of observation time. We also failed to receive reports from 3-4 other normally responsive counties. Of course, the efforts of single observers in 6 counties and the 2-4 observers in 23 more counties were definitely appreciated. In regards to the second goal, despite only 94 counties of record, a respectable 72 were able to confirm 100 or more species.

Results and Discussion

Figure 1, as usual, provides a visual reference of how well we did. The top number is the number of species reported in the county and the bottom number (in parenthesis) is the number of observers in the county. This figure can be used to compare the results of adjacent counties as well as distant counties; it also identifies those counties where **more assistance would be helpful** such as those counties with

