

year. The total number of party miles (heavy on the driving side) was very close to the 2001 record. And, the records show that there's been a steady gain in the number of party hours walked the last couple of years (which may be the result of two good-weather years).

Table 2 identifies those counties with 150 or more species. Cook County retained the premier position with a "mere" 177 species (which is 9 fewer than last year and 14 fewer than 2005); the Townsend's Warbler and Le Conte's Sparrow were the only species attributed solely to Cook County. Lake County, which usually challenges Cook, ended up with only 168

TABLE 2:
Counties with 150 or more species

Northern Counties (Area 4)	
Cook	177
DuPage	171
Lake	168
Winnebago	163
La Salle	161
McHenry	155
Carroll	153
Will	153
DeKalb	151
Central Counties (Areas 2 & 3)	
Clinton	167
Mason	166
Knox	164
Champaign	159
Brown	158
Macon	156
Vermilion	155
Madison	154
McDonough	154
Shelby	154
McLean	152
Southern Counties (Area 1)	
Union	170
Williamson	161
Massac	160

Notes:

Other counties with 140-149 species

Coles	146
Henderson	142
Jackson	143
Jo Daviess	146
Kane	149
Kankakee	147
Moultrie	146
Pike	146
Randolph	149
St. Clair	146
Sangamon	149

species, way low for this traditionally high-count county; the two Lake County-only species were the Greater Scaup and Brewer's Blackbird. In the other AREA 4 counties, DuPage was second with 171 species and was followed with 150 or more species by six other counties. Clinton County led the AREA 2 & 3 counties with 167 species; Mason was a very close second with 166; there were nine more central counties achieving 150 or more species. Union County led the AREA 1 counties with 170 species (and could have been 172 if two requested documentation forms had been provided); it was followed by two more with 150 or more species. Massac County's impressive tally of 160 species was achieved by a single observer. For the record, another 11 counties provided a confirmed list of 140 to 149 species. The record species count 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 22 counties; Cook and DuPage continue to field 100 or more partic-

TABLE 3:
Counties with 20 or more Participants

Cook	163	Knox	24
DuPage	115	La Salle	23
Will	66	Kankakee	22
McHenry	56	Kendall	22
Kane	46	Logan	22
Lake	43	Pike	22
Winnebago	35	DeKalb	21
Champaign	32	Hamilton	21
Jo Daviess	32	Adams	20
McDonough	31	Edgar	20
Boone	30	Iroquois	20

ipants. After the two high counts the number of participants in each county declines sharply.

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 2007, the average number of party hours per county was 51.5 (up from the 48.9 of 2006 but similar to the 51.8 of 2005).

Table 5 identifies the 60 species reported from 90 (90%) or more of the reporting counties. Only 18 (30%) of these were reported from all 100 counties; another 9 (15%) were reported from all but one county. As has become typical, some species such as the Mallard, American Kestrel, Rock Pigeon, Chimney Swift, Northern Flicker, Horned Lark, Purple Martin, Tufted Titmouse, House Wren, Eastern Bluebird, White-throated Sparrow and House Finch escape detection in some of the counties. This year the missing list even includes the American Goldfinch and House Sparrow.

Table 6 shows, in descending order, the 20 most commonly reported species. The Red-winged Blackbird retained its top position and the next nine continue to be much the same year after year. However, the grackle and starling moved back into second and third place, respectively, and the robin returned to the fourth position. The Canada Goose is now entrenched in the fifth position despite its "decline" of more than a 1000 birds this year. The House Sparrow, which is often reported in numbers similar to those of the Canada Goose on the

TABLE 4 – Area Coverage

AREA	Possible # of Counties	# Counties Participating	# Party Hours	Average # Party Hours Per County
1	23	22 (96%)	613	27.9
2	28	27 (96%)	967	35.8
3	27	27 (100%)	1182	43.8
4	24	24 (100%)	2391	99.6
TOTAL	102	100 (98%)	5153	51.5