

The four species on last year's list that did not make it this year were the American Coot, Yellow-rumped Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, and White-crowned Sparrow (none of which were even close to the top 20 this year). Their replacements were Song Sparrow, House Wren (only its second time in the top 20), Chimney Swift, and Mallard. Two of this year's top 20, Indigo Bunting and House Wren, were reported in record numbers. For those who keep track, the American Crow would have ranked 25th again this year (and missed the list for the fifth consecutive year) and the cormorant, which ranked high for several years, was 23rd for the second straight year. During the Count's 37-year history, 43 species have appeared in the top twenty list, eight of which have made the list only one time. There were no new additions to the list this year.

Table 7 provides the maximum species details for a) the number of counties reporting the species; b) the total number of birds of each species reported; and c) the highest number of each species recorded in a single county (including the county in which that number was recorded). The 25 species reported from a single county appear in bold face. Some of the notable single-county records were the: Red-throated Loon (a first report for the Spring Bird Count), Glossy Ibis, Yellow Rail, Black Rail, Black-legged Kittiwake, Least Tern, Bewick's Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Painted Bunting. Some of the better records for the seven species reported from only two counties were Great Black-backed Gull, Le Conte's Sparrow, and Red Crossbill. Also included in the Table (at the end) are those species that are not officially countable in Illinois (and treated as "exotics"); this year none were reported, however, the Ringed Turtle-Dove is listed anyway (to indicate that it wasn't accidentally "skipped").

**New Records.** Table 7 also identifies all new and tied count records for each species. As expected, new records are more difficult to achieve

each year and when achieved, they most often surpass the previous record by only a small margin. The 49 new records have been identified by an asterisk (\*) in the table; the 21 tied records, by a pound (#) sign. Had there been participants in all 102 counties and the usual number of observers, the number of

new records would have been even greater. There were 17 new records for the Number of counties reporting the species. Some of the largest or most interesting increases in the number of counties were for: Wild Turkey (up 3), American White Pelican (up 9), Cooper's Hawk (up 6), Eurasian Collared-Dove (up 4

**TABLE 5: Species Reported from 90 (90%) or more Counties in 2008**

|                          |     |                         |     |                        |     |
|--------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|
| Canada Goose             | 100 | Warbling Vireo          | 91  | Common Yellowthroat    | 97  |
| Wood Duck                | 93  | Red-eyed Vireo          | 91  | Eastern Towhee         | 97  |
| Mallard                  | 94  | Blue Jay                | 100 | Chipping Sparrow       | 100 |
| Wild Turkey              | 93  | American Crow           | 100 | Field Sparrow          | 98  |
| Great Blue Heron         | 99  | Horned Lark             | 93  | Song Sparrow           | 96  |
| Turkey Vulture           | 100 | Tree Swallow            | 95  | White-crowned Sparrow  | 97  |
| Red-tailed Hawk          | 99  | Barn Swallow            | 99  | Northern Cardinal      | 100 |
| Killdeer                 | 99  | Tufted Titmouse         | 98  | Rose-breasted Grosbeak | 98  |
| Rock Pigeon              | 98  | White-breasted Nuthatch | 96  | Indigo Bunting         | 99  |
| Mourning Dove            | 100 | Carolina Wren           | 91  | Red-winged Blackbird   | 100 |
| Chimney Swift            | 96  | House Wren              | 99  | Eastern Meadowlark     | 100 |
| Ruby-thr Hummingbird     | 90  | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher   | 94  | Common Grackle         | 100 |
| Red-headed Woodpecker    | 98  | Eastern Bluebird        | 98  | Brown-headed Cowbird   | 100 |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker   | 100 | Wood Thrush             | 91  | Baltimore Oriole       | 100 |
| Downy Woodpecker         | 99  | American Robin          | 100 | House Finch            | 93  |
| Northern Flicker         | 97  | Gray Catbird            | 98  | American Goldfinch     | 100 |
| Eastern Phoebe           | 94  | Brown Thrasher          | 98  | House Sparrow          | 98  |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | 92  | European Starling       | 100 |                        |     |
| Eastern Kingbird         | 100 | Yellow Warbler          | 91  |                        |     |

**TABLE 6: Twenty Most Common Species**

| Species              | 2008          | 2007   | 2006   | Highest              | # Years In Top 20 |
|----------------------|---------------|--------|--------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Red-winged Blackbird | 61,289        | 63,961 | 56,778 | 69,971 (1996)        | 37                |
| American Robin       | 35,664        | 28,606 | 33,785 | 35,720 (1995)        | 37                |
| Common Grackle       | 33,102        | 44,408 | 33,258 | 59,264 (1974)        | 37                |
| European Starling    | 27,703        | 29,997 | 30,992 | 37,736 (1992)        | 37                |
| Canada Goose         | 19,645        | 18,831 | 19,988 | 19,990 (2005)        | 23                |
| House Sparrow        | 13,509        | 14,081 | 16,580 | 32,120 (2002)        | 37                |
| American Goldfinch   | 12,463        | 15,628 | 15,539 | 18,240 (2002)        | 36                |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | 11,608        | 15,727 | 10,487 | 15,727 (2007)        | 37                |
| Mourning Dove        | 11,325        | 11,949 | 12,299 | 12,589 (2005)        | 37                |
| Northern Cardinal    | 11,170        | 12,373 | 11,865 | 13,895 (2002)        | 37                |
| Barn Swallow         | 10,705        | 10,177 | 9,976  | 27,532 (1999)        | 36                |
| Indigo Bunting       | <b>10,228</b> | 9,327  | 6,431  | <b>10,228 (2008)</b> | 18                |
| Tree Swallow         | 9,685         | 9,698  | 11,854 | 24,573 (1989)        | 23                |
| Ring-billed Gull     | 9,340         | 13,618 | 16,401 | 29,243 (1994)        | 24                |
| Chipping Sparrow     | 7,319         | 6,762  | 6,160  | 7,407 (2005)         | 6                 |
| Blue Jay             | 6,662         | 7,068  | 5,733* | 13,446 (1984)        | 36                |
| Song Sparrow         | 5,897         | 6,015* | 6,136  | 7,475 (1995)         | 12                |
| House Wren           | <b>5,857</b>  | 4,891* | 5,665* | <b>5,857 (2008)</b>  | 2                 |
| Chimney Swift        | 5,749         | 5,160* | 5,095* | 9,987 (1983)         | 27                |
| Mallard              | 5,710         | 6,285* | 5,790  | 8,731 (1994)         | 22                |

New Records in **Bold Face**. \* = Not in "Top 20" this year.