

total number of birds of each species reported; and the highest number of each species recorded in a single county, including the county in which that number was recorded. The 20 species reported from a single county appear in bold face. Some of the notable single-county records included Gray Partridge (Carroll County), Red-throated Loon (the second spring count record and two years in a row), both Glossy and White-faced Ibis (plus an unidentified dark ibis), Piping Plover, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Least Tern, Alder Flycatcher (with photograph), Painted Bunting and White-winged Crossbill. Some of the better records for the nine species reported from only two counties were Trumpeter Swan; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Western Kingbird and Red Crossbill. Also included in the table 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 was not accidentally skipped. Someday the Whooping

Crane will show up on the count; when it does, it will fit into the exotic category until unmarked individuals from Wisconsin's stable nesting population are recognized.

#### 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 36 new records have been identified by an asterisk (\*) in the table; the 14 tied records, by a pound (#) sign. Had there been participants in all 102 counties and more participating birders the number of new records would most certainly have been greater.

There were 13 new records for the number of counties reporting the species. Some of the largest or most interesting of these increases were for: Double-crested Cormorant (up 5 counties), Bald Eagle (up 2), Caspian Tern (up 3), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (up 3), Acadian Flycatcher (up 3), Cliff Swallow (up 4), White-eyed Vireo (up 4), Hooded

Warbler (up 2), and Blue Grosbeak (up 4 after a significant increase of 10 last year). There were 10 new records for the total count of birds reported for those species in a single count year. Some of the largest or most interesting of these new high counts were for: Turkey Vulture (up 41 birds after an increase of 813 last year), Cooper's Hawk (up 4 birds), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (up 170 birds), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (up 86 birds), American Robin (up 1,750 birds), Gray Catbird (up 200 birds after an increase of 338 birds last year), American Redstart (up 90 birds), and Orchard Oriole (up 80 birds). There were 13 new records for the total number of birds reported for those species in a single county. Some of the largest or most interesting records of these were for: Mississippi Kite (up 5 birds), Bald Eagle (up 16 birds), Cooper's Hawk (up 17 birds), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (up 88 birds), Eastern Towhee (up 37 birds), Song Sparrow (up 140 birds), Brown-headed Cowbird (up 70 birds), and Baltimore Oriole (up 180 birds).

#### Species Comments

- Both the Blue Jay and American Crow numbers remain subpar; for the Blue Jay there were 800 fewer birds this year than last year, but, for the crow there was a net gain of 12 birds.

- Red-headed Woodpeckers continue their serious downward trend with 139 fewer this year than last year and down almost 400 from 2007. For that matter, the numbers of Red-bellieds, Downies, Hairies and Pileateds are lower as well.

- The Gray Partridge returned to the count this year with a single bird observed in Carroll County.

- After making the count for two consecutive years, the Bewick's Wren was missed again this year.

- After appearing for several consecutive years, the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was absent from the count, although one was seen in Effingham County just after count day.

TABLE 6: Twenty Most Common Species

| Species                         | 2009          | 2008   | 2007   | Highest              | # Years In Top |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--------|--------|----------------------|----------------|
| Red-winged Blackbird            | 62,299        | 61,289 | 63,961 | 69,971 (1996)        | 38             |
| American Robin                  | <b>38,940</b> | 35,664 | 28,606 | <b>38,940 (2009)</b> | 38             |
| Common Grackle                  | 31,267        | 33,102 | 44,408 | 59,264 (1974)        | 38             |
| European Starling               | 30,035        | 27,703 | 29,997 | 37,736 (1992)        | 38             |
| Canada Goose                    | 19,416        | 19,645 | 18,831 | 19,990 (2005)        | 24             |
| Tree Swallow                    | 14,059        | 9,685  | 9,698  | 24,573 (1989)        | 24             |
| House Sparrow                   | 13,669        | 13,509 | 14,081 | 32,120 (2002)        | 38             |
| Barn Swallow                    | 13,040        | 10,705 | 10,177 | 27,532 (1999)        | 37             |
| Brown-headed Cowbird            | 11,844        | 11,608 | 15,727 | 15,727 (2007)        | 38             |
| American Goldfinch              | 11,704        | 12,463 | 15,628 | 18,240 (2002)        | 37             |
| Northern Cardinal               | 10,553        | 11,170 | 12,373 | 13,895 (2002)        | 38             |
| Mourning Dove                   | 9,500         | 11,325 | 11,949 | 12,589 (2005)        | 38             |
| Indigo Bunting                  | 9,466         | 10,228 | 9,327  | 10,228 (2008)        | 19             |
| Ring-billed Gull                | 7,569         | 9,340  | 13,618 | 29,243 (1994)        | 25             |
| No. Rough-winged Swallow        | 7,241         | 4,937* | 3,764* | 8,980 (1999)         | 6              |
| Chipping Sparrow                | 6,927         | 7,319  | 6,762  | 7,407 (2005)         | 7              |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler           | 6,024         | 4,177  | 7,576  | 17,978 (1997)        | 25             |
| Blue Jay                        | 5,843         | 6,662  | 7,068  | 13,446 (1984)        | 37             |
| House Wren                      | 5,778         | 5,857  | 4,891* | 5,857 (2008)         | 3              |
| Song Sparrow                    | 5,758         | 5,897  | 6,015* | 7,475 (1995)         | 13             |
| New Records in <b>Bold Face</b> |               |        |        |                      |                |

\* = Not in "Top 20" this year