Species	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Red-winged Blackbird	1	1	1	1	1
American Robin	2	2	2	2	2
European Starling	3	4	3	4	4
Common Grackle	4	3	6	3	3
Canada Goose	5	5	7	5	5
House Sparrow	6	9	9	7	6
American Goldfinch	7	6	10	10	7
Northern Cardinal	8	11	14	11	10
Brown-headed Cowbird	9	7	12	9	8
Mourning Dove	10	14	15	12	9
Barn Swallow	11	12	4	8	11
Tree Swallow	12	10	5	6	13
Indigo Bunting	13	20	18	13	12
American Coot	14	39	93	46	57
American Golden-Plover	15	53	48	70	59
Yellow-rumped Warbler	16	15	17	17	32
Mallard	17	18	19	21	20
Ring-billed Gull	18	17	16	14	14
Double-crested Cormorant	19	38	32	35	23
Common Yellowthroat	20	33	35	31	27

Table 1. The relative rank of species in terms of abundance (top 20 in 2012) in a given year.

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One of the more interesting data sets is one that shows how common species are through time. Though this can be difficult to interpret due to differential effort through years, one approach is to simply rank how common a species is in a given year and compare that rank to previous years. Red-winged Blackbirds continue to retain the designation of being the most common along with American Robin, which continues to be the second most common species detected.

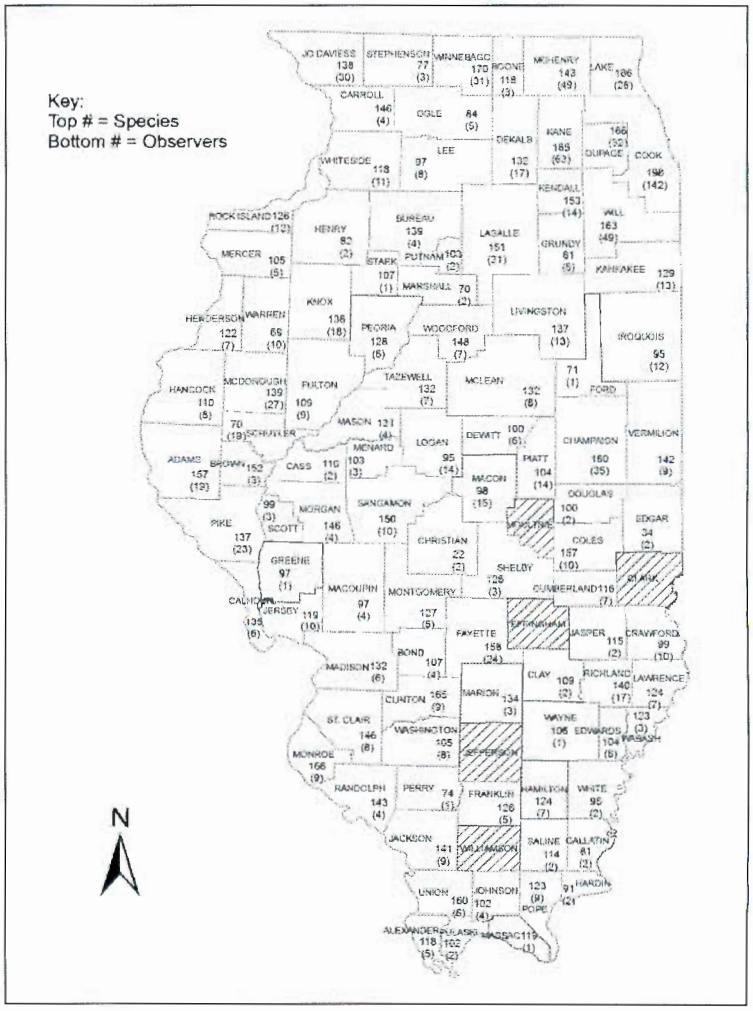

Figure 4. The number of species detected and participants (in parentheses) in Illinois Counties in 2012. The hatched counties were not censused.