

4 or fewer participants and those with 99 or fewer species.

Table 1 compares the 2005 results with those of the past two years and the "record" year. Although 2005 was a very good year, and the weather was "great" for birding, it was not a record-setting year for any of the listed categories. However, based on what is now known, it could have been a record year for total species (270+ rather than 266) had Gray Partridge not been missed for the first time ever, had the known Painted Buntings and White-faced Ibises been found, had Trumpeter Swans been an officially countable species, and had at least one other reported species been appropriately documented. As noted in the table, the number of observers increased again this year — even with fewer counties reporting; and, the number of party miles walked was about 150 less than last year even though the number of party hours walked was nearly the same both years. Further, with only 94 counties reporting, it is interesting to note that the total number of miles and hours driven, number of counties with 20 or more participants, and the average number of species per participating county remained constant, and, that 6 of the listed categories were higher this year than those of last year (and its 101 counties of record).

Table 2 identifies those counties with 150 or more species. Cook County went all-out to regain top

Figure 1 provides an easy pictorial view of how well we did. The top number is the number of species reported and the bottom number (in parenthesis), the number of observers in the county. The 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, especially those with 4 or fewer participants. White County was the only county for which results were not received this year.

TABLE 1: Annual Comparisons

| Criteria | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 | Highest Total |
|---|---------|---------|---------|----------------|
| Number of Species | 266 | 261 | 268 | 269 (1996) |
| Number of Birds | 554,507 | 559,486 | 519,342 | 593,680 (1996) |
| Number of Participating Counties | 94 | 101 | 93 | 102 (2 yrs) |
| Number of Observers | 1422 | 1362 | 1350 | 1611 (1997) |
| Number of Party Miles Walked | 2176 | 2424 | 2027 | 2628 (1995) |
| Number of Party Miles Driven | 22,442 | 22,608 | 21,782 | 23,942 (2001) |
| Total Number of Party Miles | 24,618 | 25,032 | 23,809 | 26,401 (2001) |
| Number of Party Hours Walked | 2960 | 2975 | 2647 | 3457 (1997) |
| Number of Party Hours Driven | 1910 | 1880 | 1919 | 2140 (1998) |
| Total Number of Party Hours | 4870 | 4855 | 4566 | 5565 (1995) |
| No. of Species in 90 or more Counties | 32 | 48 | 33 | 55 (1996) |
| No. of Counties with 100 or more species | 72 | 80 | 69 | 80 (2 yrs) |
| No. of Counties with 20 or more observers | 21 | 21 | 20 | 24 (1998) |
| Highest Species Total in Single County | 191 | 184 | 192 | 205 (1983) |
| Average # of species/participating County | 121 | 120 | 120 | 122 (1999) |
| Average # of species for all 102 counties | 112 | 119 | 110 | 120 (1999) |

