

honors and ended up with 191 species; Lake County, which usually challenges Cook, and this year accounted for the only records of eight species (Greater Scaup, Horned Grebe, 5 species of gulls and the Brewer's Blackbird), was a distant second with 175 species. Cook County's only isolated species were the Common Goldeneye and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. DuPage, with 172 species, was among the state's best as well. As expected, seven more (for a total of 10) counties in the northern quarter of the state (AREA 4) reported 150 or more species. In the central half of the state (AREAS 2 & 3), Clinton County (with 163) was the best of

the six at 150 or more species. In the southern quarter of Illinois (AREA 1), Union County (with 164) was the highest of the three counties that made the list. For the record, another 15 counties provided confirmed lists of 140 to 149 species and the highest species count ever for a single county remains at 205 (set in 1983).

Table 3 lists, in descending order, the counties with 20 or more participants; for the second consecutive year that number is 21 counties. As usual, Cook and DuPage both continue to field 100 or more participants. I still marvel at how well the coordinators deal with so many people and so many numbers, and keep the observers occupied in non-duplicated areas throughout the entire day. *[As mentioned each year, I encourage observers in some of these well-endowed counties to consider assisting in one of the less-endowed counties. When looking at the results in the various tables, it would seem likely that several more new records could be established if we had more observers in some of the less-endowed counties. Of course, special thanks to all of you who have already made the transition.]*

Table 4 provides the usual comparisons of birding efforts in each quarter of the state—identified as AREAS 1 through 4 (south to north) in Figure 1. In 2005, the average number of party hours was 51.81, nearly 4 party hours per county more than in 2004 and almost 3 party hours per county more than in 2003; but, still nearly 3 hours less per county than the record set in 1977.

Table 5 identifies the 54 species reported from 85 (90%) or more of the reporting counties. Only 11 species (20%) were found in all 94 counties; another 13 (24%) were reported in all but one of these counties. It's interesting to note the number of counties that missed the American Kestrel, Rock Pigeon, Chimney Swift, Red-headed Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Warbling Vireo, Horned Lark, Purple Martin, White-throated Sparrow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and House Finch.

Table 6 shows, in descending order, the 20 most commonly reported species. As usual, the top 10 are pretty much the same year after year; however, this year the Canada Goose (with another new record count) moved ahead of the House Sparrow and became the 5th most common species; all others in the top ten are in the same position as last year. The Ring-billed Gull continues in the top ten as a result of Cook County's effort. The Mourning Dove, despite establishing another new high count, remained in 9th position. The species in the lower half of the top ten often vary. The White-crowned Sparrow (in 12th position) made the list for the first time and the Chipping Sparrow achieved the list for only the third time; counts for

**TABLE 2:**  
**Counties with 150 or more species**

Northern Counties (Area 4)	
Cook	191
Lake	175
DuPage	172
Winnebago	168
Carroll	164
Mercer	162
Kane	159
Will	157
La Salle	153
McHenry	150
Central Counties (Areas 2 & 3)	
Clinton	163
Macon	162
Knox	161
Champaign	160
Sangamon	159
Mason	155
Southern Counties (Area 1)	
Union	164
Massac	156
Williamson	150
Notes:	
Other counties with 140-149 species	
Brown	148
Bureau	140
Coles	141
DeKalb	148
Jackson	141
Jo Daviess	149
Kankakee	143
Madison	140
McDonough	144
McLean	143
Piatt	140
Randolph	147
St. Clair	148
Shelby	141
Vermilion	146

**TABLE 3:**  
**Counties with 20 or more Participants**

Cook	124	Winnebago	33
DuPage	108	JoDaviess	31
Will	57	LaSalle	31
McHenry	52	Knox	27
Edgar	51	Boone	24
Kane	47	Logan	22
Lake	45	Crawford	22
Stephenson	45	Kendall	21
McDonough	39	DeKalb	20
Schuyler	38	Vermilion	20
Champaign	36		

**TABLE 4 – Area Coverage**

AREA	Possible # of Counties	# Counties Participating	# Party Hours	Average # Party Hours Per County
1	23	22(96%)	650	29.55
2	28	25(89%)	870	34.80
3	27	25(93%)	1143	45.72
4	24	22(92%)	2207	100.32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>94(92%)</b>	<b>4870</b>	<b>51.81</b>