

both of these sparrows were new state highs. The White-throated Sparrow returned to the list after missing last year. The Blue Jay, despite dropping from 15th position last year to 17th position this year, did experience a net gain of 819 birds since last year; however, it's still only 55% as abundant as it was at its peak year (1984). The American Crow, which ranked 22nd this year and has been in the top 20 all but the last two years, was reported to be only 45% as abundant as it was during its peak year (1991), but did experience a 6% statewide gain since last year (at least according to Spring Bird Count data). The Brown-headed Cowbird has always made the top twenty and sits in position 11 this year. The Double-crested Cormorant now continues to be a regular in the top twenty after barely being reported anywhere in the state some 30 years ago. The Barn Swallow, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Tree Swallow and Mallard round-out the top twenty list and continue to be in the top twenty more often than not. Over the count's 34-year history, 43 species have now appeared in the top twenty; the White-crowned Sparrow was the only addition this year. Overall, nine species have been on this list just one time.

Table 7 provides the maximum species details including the number of counties reporting the species, the total number of birds of each species reported, the highest number of each species recorded in a single county and the county in which that number was recorded. In regards to this latter category, *the highest species counts in a single county*, it's worth noting that many of these numbers were only slightly larger, in some cases only one or two birds more, than the runner-up counties. The 21 species reported from a single county appear in **bold face**. Some of the notable single-county records were the Purple Gallinule (Champaign County), Piping Plover (Bureau County), Laughing (4), Thayer's (4), Iceland, Lesser Black-backed and Great Black-back gulls (Lake County), Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

(Johnson County), Swainson's Warbler (Wabash County), Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (Cook County) and Red Crossbill (Mason County). Some of the better records of the 9 species reported from only two counties were Greater Prairie-Chicken, Merlin and Marbled Godwit.

Table 7, at the end, also acknowledges those species reported on the

Spring Bird Count that are not officially countable as Illinois species. For the purposes of this report those species have been identified as "exotics" and "others". Of course, the Trumpeter Swan certainly is not an "exotic" in the basic sense, but, until it meets the minimum Illinois Ornithological Records Committee requirements to be a countable species, it will continue to appear as

TABLE 5: Species Reported from 85 (90%) or more Counties

Canada Goose	92	Warbling Vireo	86	Common Yellowthroat	91
Wood Duck	88	Blue Jay	94	Eastern Towhee	89
Mallard	88	American Crow	94	Chipping Sparrow	94
Great Blue Heron	93	Horned Lark	85	Field Sparrow	92
Turkey Vulture	93	Purple Martin	86	Song Sparrow	93
Red-tailed Hawk	92	Tree Swallow	90	White-throated Sparrow	88
American Kestrel	86	Barn Swallow	93	White-crowned Sparrow	89
Killdeer	92	Tufted Titmouse	87	Northern Cardinal	94
Rock Pigeon	85	White-brstd Nuthatch	91	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	85
Mourning Dove	94	Carolina Wren	89	Indigo Bunting	93
Chimney Swift	89	House Wren	90	Red-winged Blackbird	94
Red-head Woodpecker	88	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	85	Eastern Meadowlark	93
Red-bell Woodpecker	93	Eastern Bluebird	93	Common Grackle	94
Downy Woodpecker	93	Wood Thrush	87	Brown-headed Cowbird	93
Northern Flicker	88	American Robin	94	Baltimore Oriole	93
Eastern Phoebe	88	Gray Catbird	91	House Finch	88
Gr Crested Flycatcher	88	Brown Thrasher	94	American Goldfinch	93
Eastern Kingbird	93	European Starling	94	House Sparrow	94

TABLE 6: Twenty Most Common Species

Species	# Years			Highest	In Top 20
	2005	2004	2003		
Red-winged Blackbird	65,410	61,686	61,845	69,971 (1996)	34
Common Grackle	38,907	33,393	32,584	59,264 (1974)	34
European Starling	37,585	31,697	28,077	37,736 (1992)	34
American Robin	34,261	31,595	26,000	35,720 (1995)	34
Canada Goose	19,990	18,730	15,585	19,990 (2005)	20
House Sparrow	18,363	19,232	16,544	32,120 (2002)	34
Ring-billed Gull	17,964	17,439	20,806	29,243 (1994)	21
American Goldfinch	14,294	16,327	10,383	18,240 (2002)	33
Mourning Dove	12,589	12,053	12,388	12,589 (2005)	34
Northern Cardinal	11,864	11,976	10,229	13,895 (2002)	34
Brown-headed Cowbird	11,132	10,567	8,887	12,542 (1995)	34
White-crowned Sparrow	8,897	*5,028	*4,567	8,897 (2005)	1
Barn Swallow	8,633	9,934	9,606	27,532 (1999)	33
Yellow-rumped Warbler	8,102	6,006	6,807	17,978 (1997)	22
Double-crested Cormorant	7,504	6,108	6,776	9,748 (2002)	6
Tree Swallow	7,449	10,924	9,426	24,573 (1989)	20
Blue Jay	7,437	6,618	6,693	13,446 (1984)	34
Chipping Sparrow	7,407	6,160	*4,879	7,407 (2005)	3
White-throated Sparrow	6,952	*5,445	5,730	12,767 (1996)	14
Mallard	6,596	6,145	*5,702	8,731 (1994)	20

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