

Table 5 — Twenty Most Common Species

Species	2002	2001	2000	Highest	# Years In Top 20
Red-winged Blackbird	64,274	64,459	60,737	69,971 (1996)	31
Common Grackle	36,591	34,124	33,213	59,264 (1974)	31
American Robin	33,808	32,795	30,792	35,720 (1995)	31
House Sparrow	32,120	19,459	21,384	32,120 (2002)	31
European Starling	32,105	30,111	32,695	37,736 (1992)	31
Ring-billed Gull	18,728	19,968	17,369	29,243 (1994)	18
American Goldfinch	18,240	14,810	13,150	18,240 (2002)	30
Canada Goose	16,448	16,267	19,031	19,031 (2000)	17
Northern Cardinal	13,895	11,122	10,842	13,895 (2002)	31
Blue Jay	11,655	8,150	9,507	13,446 (1984)	31
Brown-headed Cowbird	11,564	9,544	9,974	12,542 (1995)	31
American Crow	10,794	11,915	11,015	13,226 (1991)	31
Mourning Dove	10,551	10,582	10,558	12,369 (1995)	31
Double-crested Cormorant	9,748	*4,338	5,839	9,748 (2002)	3
Yellow-rumped Warbler	8,006	8,733	*4,912	17,978 (1997)	19
American Coot	7,668	* 966	*4,185	11,153 (1996)	6
Tree Swallow	7,601	9,444	6,277	24,573 (1989)	17
American Golden-Plover	6,944	*1,746	*4,158	24,800 (1978)	17
Barn Swallow	6,875	10,295	7,786	27,532 (1999)	30
Chipping Sparrow	5,945	*4,951	*4,744	5,945 (2002)	1

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

setting year for the **House Sparrow**; as such, it jumped up two positions in the table moving ahead of the starling and Ring-billed Gull; it was also a record-setting year for the **American Goldfinch, Northern Cardinal, Double-crested Cormorant, and Chipping Sparrow**. The goldfinch moved up to the 7th position, ahead of the Canada Goose. The Canada Goose, in 8th position, was only 51% as common as the House Sparrow this year compared with 84% and 89% as common in 2001 & 2000, respectively. The Northern Cardinal moved into the 9th position and the Blue Jay jumped up into 10th position. Of the first 13 birds on this list, 10 have been in the top 20 every year and the goldfinch has only missed one year. The Barn Swallow (in 19th position) is another species that has missed the top 20 only one

year. The Double-crested Cormorant is a climbing species – 2002 marked its third year in the top 20 and it moved all the way up to the 14th position. The Yellow-rumped Warbler (in 15th position) is a species that makes the list about 2/3 of the time. The other species on the list may hit-or-miss depending on migration fronts and whether or not birders discover them in large congregations. If it hadn't been for the 3720 American Coots in Putnam County, and 2500 American Golden-Plovers in McLean County the Song and White-throated Sparrows would have been on the Top 20 List this year. Other species such as the Mallard, Rock Dove, Chimney Swift, and Indigo Bunting often appear in the Top 20 as well. This year the Pectoral Sandpiper missed the List (for its would-be first occurrence) by only 850 birds.

Table 6 is a synopsis of the entire 2002 count. It shows the

number of counties reporting each species, the total number of birds of each species reported, the highest number of each species reported from a single county and the new records set this year. The **23** species reported from a single county have been **bold faced** and the **FER-RUGINOUS HAWK** (Alexander County) is further emphasized by capital letters since it had never been reported on a Spring Bird Count and ranks high as one of the most interesting count records of 2002. Some of the other notable single county records, which made it possible for the statewide compilation to achieve the 265 species mark this year, included the Tundra Swan at Lake Mermet, the Long-tailed Duck (5th year) at the Newton Power Plant, the Swainson's Hawks in Kane County, the Gray Partridge in Lee County (still "hanging in there" for the 31st year but in a different

county than in other recent years), the American Avocet in Champaign County, the Ruff (4th year) in Mason County, the really early Alder Flycatcher in De Kalb County, the Connecticut Warbler in Du Page County, the two Painted Buntings (2nd year) in McDonough County, and the White-winged Crossbill (4th year) (along with Red Crossbills) in Lee County. Some of the better records of the 12 species reported from only two counties were: Ross's Goose, Western Kingbird, Smith's Longspur and Red Crossbill. Some of the species that were not reported this year that may have been present include: Canvasback, Black-necked Stilt, either godwit, Baird's and Stilt Sandpipers, Laughing, Franklin's and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Short-eared Owl, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Bewick's Wren.

New Records

As mentioned above, Table 6