

2018 ILLINOIS SPRING BIRD COUNT REPORT



Photo by Joe Gardner

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INTRODUCTION

The 2018 Illinois Statewide Spring Bird Count marked the 47th Spring Bird Count. We thank the 1,134+ volunteers (96 counties) that participated in the 2018 count. Many counties this year had high species counts. Weather was favorable and birds were plentiful. We had many compilers that reported being excited about the abundance and number of species.

2018 COUNT HIGHLIGHTS

A grand total of 443,319 birds of 276 species were recorded during the 2018 SBC. Some highlights from 2018 are listed below:

- ▷ New species to the count: Brown Pelican (Pike), Whooping Crane (Sangamon), White-winged Dove (Cook), and Pine Grosbeak (JoDavies).
- ▷ A large number of warblers (42,592) were detected this year. (18,273 in 2017 and 28,730 in 2016).
- ▷ A record number of Yellow Warbler were detected (3,653).
- ▷ American White Pelican (6,626) and Bald Eagle (560) populations continue to grow as a record number of birds were counted this year.
- ▷ A very large number of Swainson's Thrush were detected this year (3,201). The previous record of 1,897 was from 1999.
- ▷ Mason County detected 60 Smith's Longspur.
- ▷ The Summer Tanager range continues to grow with a record number of county detections (75).



Swainson's Thrush Photo by P.A. Dickerson.



Northern Parula Photo by Ryan Askren.



Greater White-fronted Goose Photo by Stuart Tower.



Smith's Longspur Photo by K. Lund.

What is the Illinois Spring Bird Count

Spring Bird Count (SBC) is a yearly bird count that consists of volunteers conducting bird censuses on the Saturday that falls between May 4th and May 10th. The censuses are conducted in all 102 counties in Illinois, however in any given year a few counties are not censused. Each county has a compiler responsible for recruiting volunteers and assigning individuals, or parties, areas to count within their county. This is especially important to avoid double coverage of an area. Compilers also tabulate all data collected within their county and send it to the state compiler. Volunteers record all birds seen or heard, along with the number of hours they spend “owling” (pre-dawn hours), the number of hours spent looking for birds during the day, the number of miles driven in a car, and the number of miles walked.

The first SBC was organized by Vern Kleen and with the help of Illinois Audubon Society was conducted on Saturday, 6 May 1972 and included 650 observers in 62 counties. Vern continued organizing and growing the count for over 30 years, before transitioning the count to the Illinois Natural History Survey. There are now over 1,100 observers involved every year.

Why conduct a Spring Bird Count

With over 40 years worth of SBC data we can use these data in a number of different ways. One of the most beneficial ways we use the data is to look at changes in species population trends over time. We can also look at changes in species distribution, such as how fast an invasive species spreads within the state. The SBC data can also be used to show range shifts in species. Also, given the timing of the count we are often able to document rare or vagrant species in Illinois. Finally, these data can be used, and have been used, by others to help make conservation management decisions. In the following report we detail some of the ways we use SBC data as well as compiler information and findings from this year’s count.



Magnolia Warbler Photo by Ryan Askren.



Virginia Rail Photo by P.A. Dickerson.

INTERESTING FINDINGS

As previously mentioned, SBC can provide data on both the abundance and distribution of birds over time. In Figure 1 we see that Red-shouldered Hawks appear to have increased in distribution across Illinois. Between 1975 and 1996 the primary areas where Red-shouldered Hawks were found was in southwest Illinois and scattered throughout northern Illinois. From 1997 to 2018 we see that they have become more common throughout southern Illinois and are now distributed throughout much of Illinois. The same trend is generally true for Yellow-throated Warblers, prior to 1975 the core area was in far southern Illinois and a few other isolated areas (Figure 2). Since 1976 we see that the species appears to be becoming more common along the Mississippi River and is generally distributed throughout Illinois.



Yellow-throated Warbler Photo by Ryan Askren.

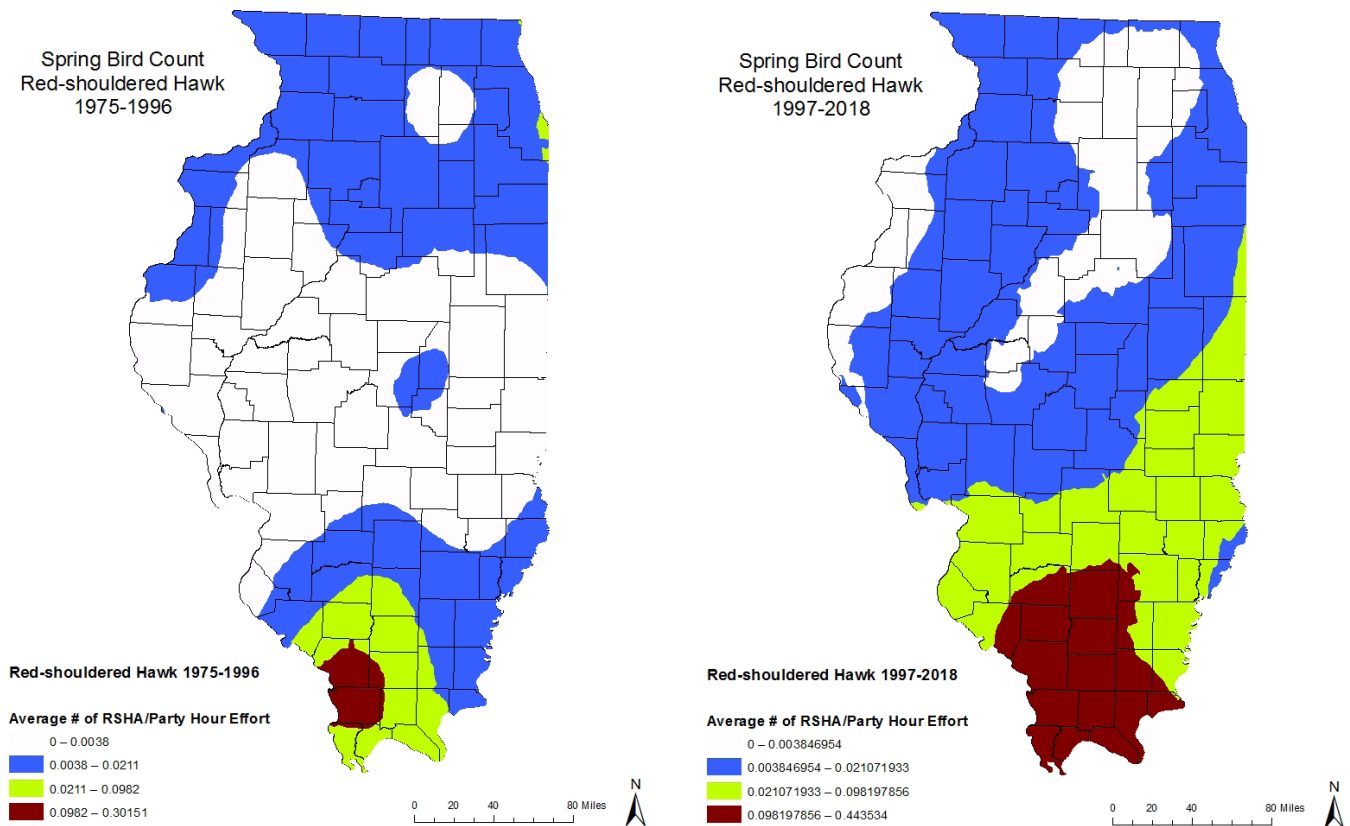


Figure 1. Red-shouldered Hawk distribution shift using 45 years of Spring Bird Count data.

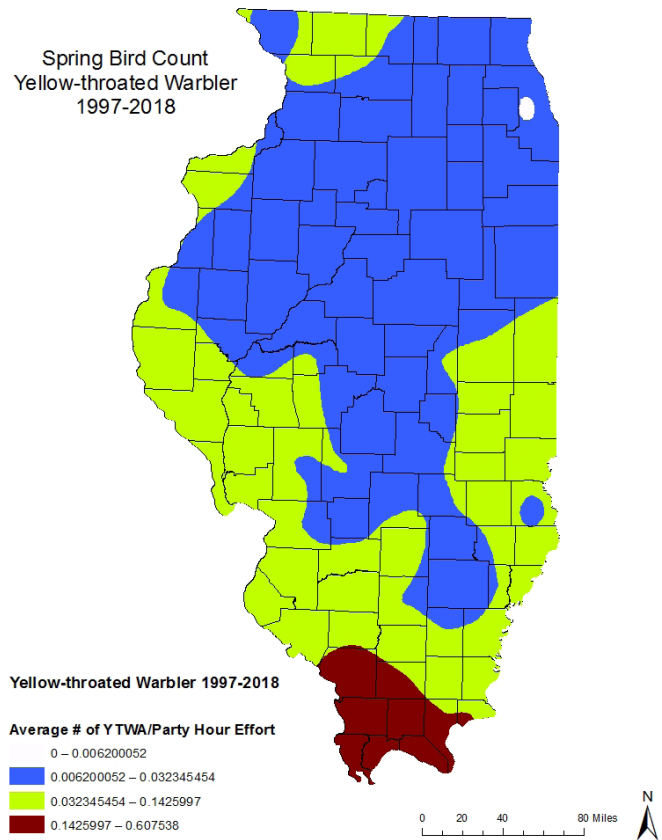
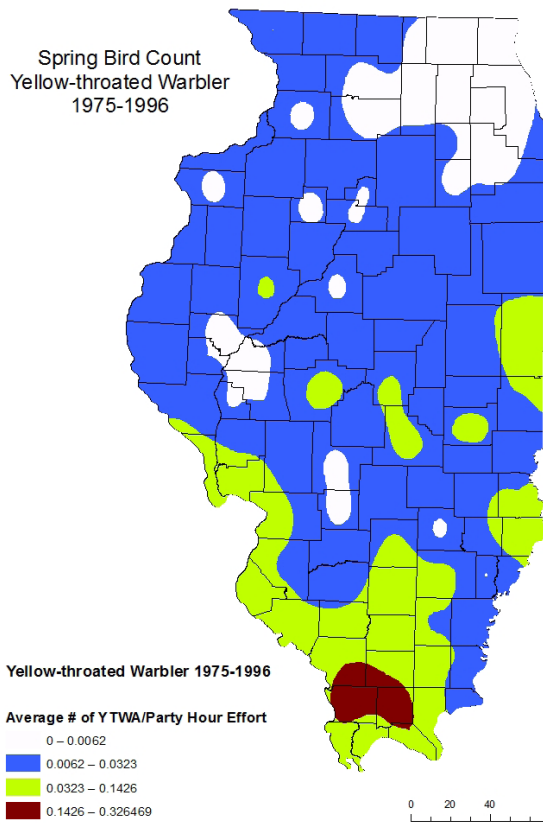


Figure 2. Yellow-throated Warbler distribution shift using 45 years of Spring Bird Count data.

Wandering Warblers

It is very interesting to speculate on what factors are contributing to the differences in the number of warblers detected each year (Figure 3). The most obvious being that the Spring Bird Count changes dates each year, and each spring (and each day) is different. While there are many other factors that may affect the abundance of warblers it does appear that 2018 was unique in terms of the sheer number of warblers. One species that was driving the abundance was the 3000+ Palm Warblers detected in Cook County. The Spring Bird Count data can provide an index of long-term population trends for many species.

In the case of Palm Warbler, the primary means to tracking populations, the Breeding Bird Survey, is at a disadvantage. The BBS, one of the largest avian monitoring programs in the world, monitoring over 3,000 routes for breeding birds in Canada, the United States, and Mexico can only conduct surveys where there are roads (i.e., the edge of the BBS survey area in Figure 4). The majority of the Palm Warbler population likely breeds north of where the BBS can

survey. Given this, the areas in which the BBS can monitor suggests Palm Warbler populations have been stable over the last 50 years though there is a large amount of uncertainty associated with their estimate. It will be interesting to see how the numbers of Palm Warblers passing through Illinois changes and as more data are collected we can begin to understand the factors that may contribute to the large variation in birds detected during the Spring Bird Count.



Palm Warbler Photo by J.M. Mui.

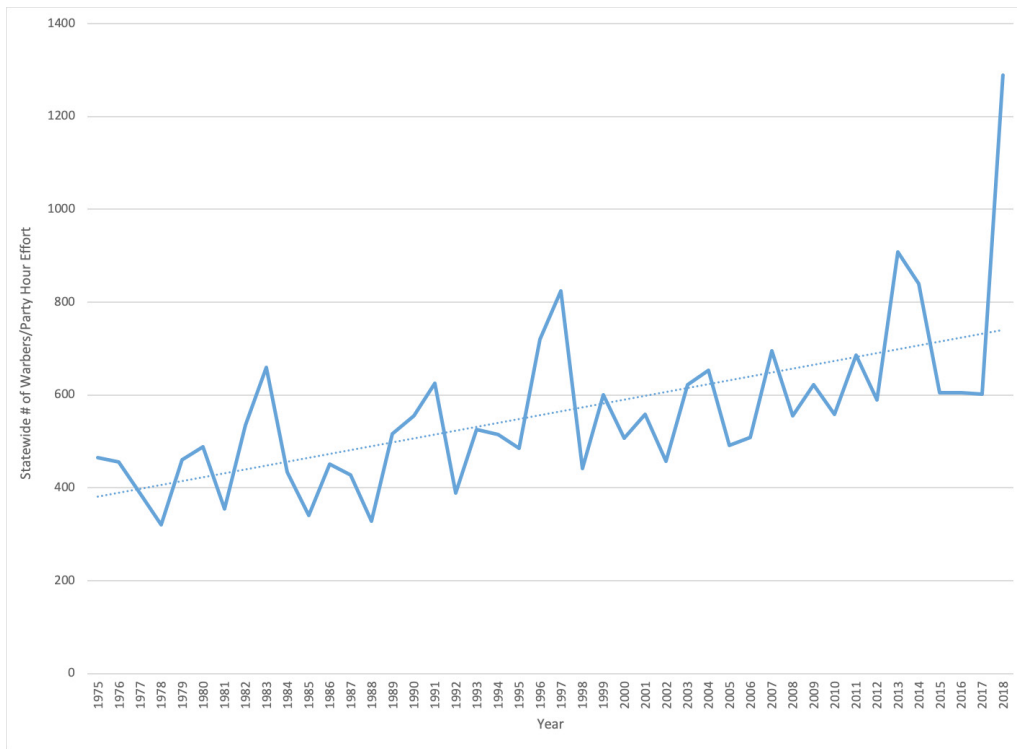


Figure 3. Total number of Palm Warblers, adjusted for effort, statewide over 45 years of Spring Bird Count.

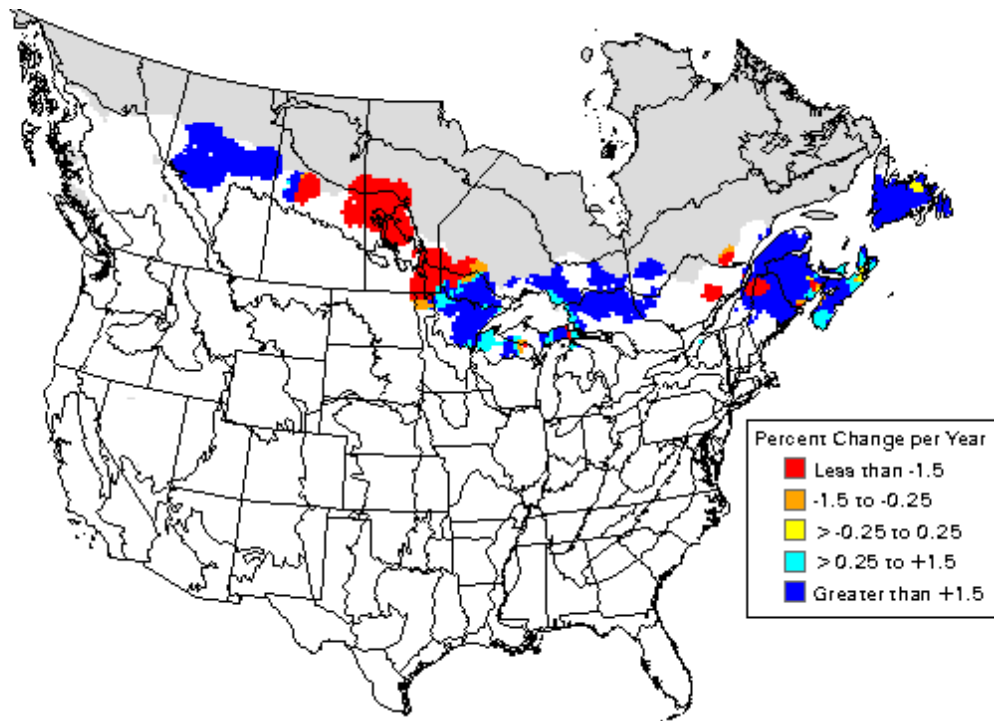


Figure 4. Breeding Bird Survey map of population trend of Palm Warbler. Pardieck, K.L., D.J. Ziolkowski Jr., M. Lutmerding and M.-A.R. Hudson. 2018. North American Breeding Bird Survey Dataset 1966 - 2017, version 2017.0. U.S. Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. <https://doi.org/10.5066/F76972V8>.

Common Species

One of the more interesting data sets is 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 Blackbird and American Robin continue to retain the top two spots and at least half of the other species on this list have not seen any significant changes in their ranks (Table 1). Palm Warblers also had a particularly good year in 2018.

Volunteer Distribution

You can definitely tell where the larger populations of people are in the state when looking at Figure 5. For many Illinois county compilers it can often be quite challenging to find volunteers, and often we may see a compiler censusing a county all on their own. There are always hidden hotspots to be found in counties and exploring new terrain is always educational. We definitely encourage volunteers to try counting in a new county on occasion especially if they would like to have more ground to cover. County compilers are always eager to gain new participants and they can help both provide areas that need to be censused and to team new surveyors with experienced participants.

Compiler Recordings

Given the SBC dates back to 1972 there are some compilers and volunteers that have been part of the count for a very long time (we are not saying you are old, just experienced). We have also seen the passing of some very dedicated and wonderful compilers and volunteers in that time (Marilyn Campbell a compiler since the count began before her passing in 2017, Ray Boehmer committed over 25 years before his recent passing just prior to the 2018 count, and Craig Stettner long time educator and birder before his recent passing in late 2018). This count builds great friendships over time and inspires many to take a more hands on approach to bird and habitat conservation. From a coordinator and ecologist perspective we are very thankful to have the support of such a large number of volunteers. Table 2 lays out all of the effort that goes into the Spring Bird Count and recognizes those that compile county wide census data.

Table 1. The relative rank of species in terms of abundance (top 20 in 2018) in a given year.

| Species | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Red-winged Blackbird | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| American Robin | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Canada Goose | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Common Grackle | 4 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| European Starling | 5 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Palm Warbler | 6 | 41 | 22 | 36 | 18 |
| Double-crested Cormorant | 7 | 12 | 8 | 16 | 7 |
| Northern Cardinal | 8 | 10 | 11 | 8 | 6 |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | 9 | 7 | 9 | 7 | 10 |
| American Goldfinch | 10 | 11 | 13 | 10 | 9 |
| House Sparrow | 11 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 8 |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | 12 | 29 | 25 | 31 | 22 |
| American Coot | 13 | 51 | 18 | 25 | 15 |
| Blue Jay | 14 | 14 | 15 | 19 | 21 |
| Mourning Dove | 15 | 13 | 16 | 11 | 13 |
| Tree Swallow | 16 | 6 | 10 | 12 | 16 |
| American White Pelican | 17 | 26 | 43 | 47 | 36 |
| Barn Swallow | 18 | 9 | 12 | 9 | 14 |
| White-throated Sparrow | 19 | 23 | 17 | 59 | 67 |
| Song Sparrow | 20 | 19 | 28 | 26 | 27 |



SBC Volunteers, Saline County State Conservation Area Photo by J.M. Mui.

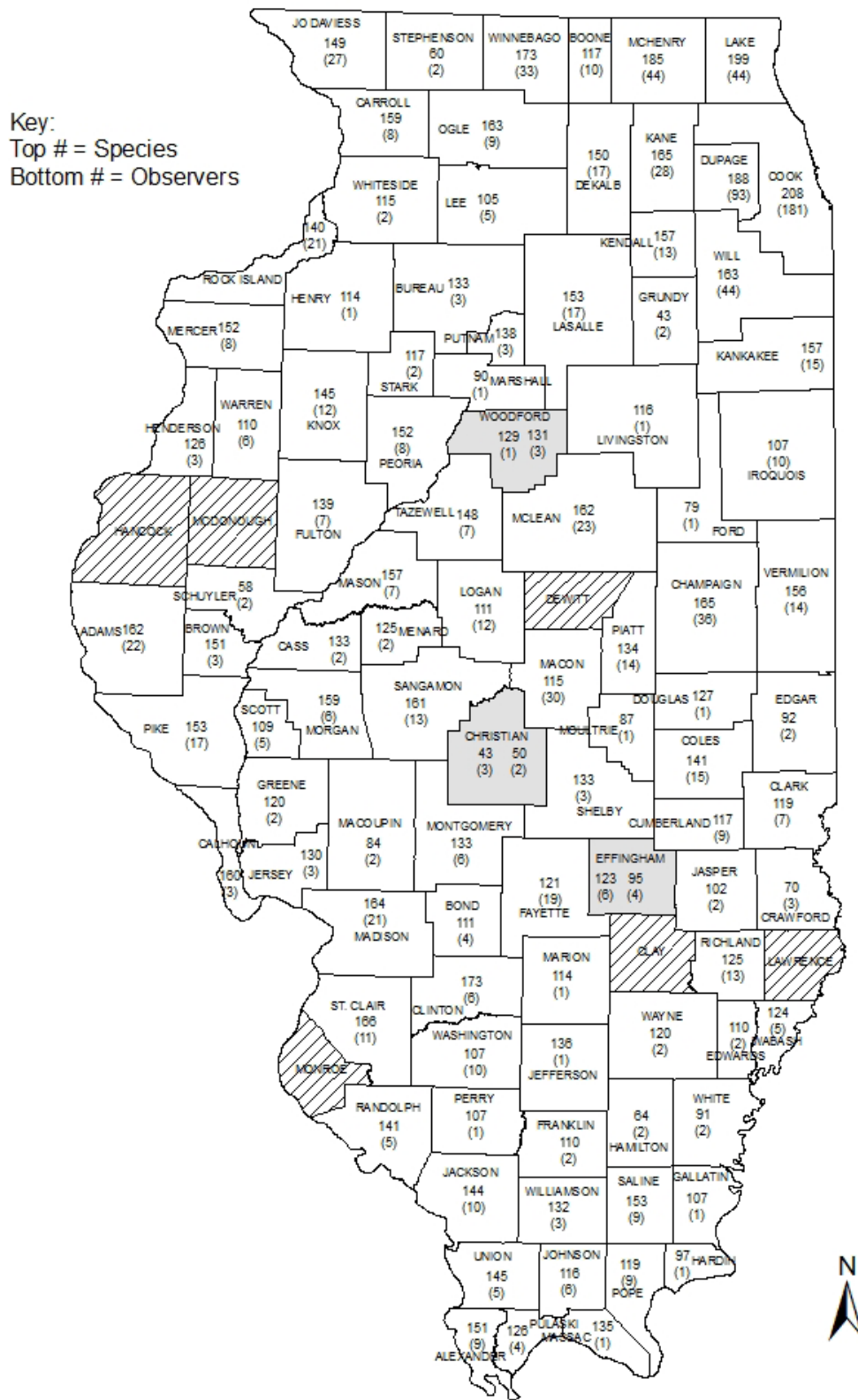


Figure 5. The number of species detected and participants (in parentheses) in Illinois Counties in 2018. Gray counties indicate two count days. Hatched lines indicate no data received.

2018 Species Accounts and Records

To date the running species total for the SBC is 356 species. With range shifts and abnormal weather patterns this number will most likely continue to increase. This table gives accounts of all of the species detected during the SBC this year. There were a number of old records that were either tied or broken this year. The Eurasian Tree Sparrow continues to shift into new counties and broke the previous record for total # of counties as well as the record for total # of individuals. Both Bald Eagle and American White Pelican were relatively rare species in the 1970s and 80s but they are now being found in record numbers.

CONCLUSION

Now we wait to see what the 2019 SBC (May 4th) has in store. As always, we have a few counties that need compilers for the upcoming count. If you are interested in taking on some new terrain please let us know. There are always unique hotspots waiting to be found! For 2019 we are currently looking for compilers for the following counties: DeWitt, Grundy, Hamilton, Hancock, Jasper, Jefferson, and McDonough.



Pectoral Sandpiper Photo M.P. Ward.

For county compiler updates and information please visit the SBC website at <http://wwx.inhs.illinois.edu/index.php?cID=2647>. Also, if you are interested in looking at population trends of individual species, or downloading the SBC data for your own person use, an updated link on the SBC website where you can access the data will soon be available.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank the many compilers and volunteers that have helped with SBC over the years and those that continue to do so. This program would not be possible without their dedication. We would also like to thank the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Illinois Audubon Society, The Illinois Ornithological society, and all other organizations that have assisted in recruiting volunteers and contributing to the success of SBC. Putting this report together would not have been possible without Jen Mui assisting us in the design layout. Also, we would like to thank Ryan Askren, Patty Dickerson, Joe Gardner, Karen Lund, Jen Mui and Stuart Tower for the use of their photos.



White-faced Ibis Photo Stuart Tower

Table 2.2018 Statistics by county. N.R. = No Report;** = No data.

| County | # of Species | # of Birds | # of Obs | # of Parties | Start Time | End Time | Miles Walked | Miles Driven | Miles Other | Hours Walked | Hours Driven | Hours Other | Compiler |
|------------|--------------|------------|----------|--------------|------------|----------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Adams | 162 | 5724 | 22 | 9 | 3:00 | 20:45 | 13 | 316 | 0 | 14 | 29 | 6.5 | Brandon Stehl |
| Alexander | 151 | 6337 | 9 | 5 | 5:00 | 18:50 | 11.8 | 196.6 | 0 | 26.9 | 23.7 | 0 | Allen Gathman |
| Bond | 111 | 3061 | 4 | 2 | 6:00 | 19:00 | 3 | 236 | 0 | 5 | 21 | 0 | Charley Marbutt |
| Boone | 117 | 3193 | 10 | 8 | 4:00 | 19:00 | 30.4 | 120 | 0 | 24.9 | 12.32 | 0 | Joel Neylon |
| Brown | 151 | 2804 | 3 | 1 | 4:00 | 16:30 | 3 | 104 | 0 | 8 | 4.5 | 0 | Mike Ward |
| Bureau | 133 | 6119 | 3 | 3 | 3:45 | 18:30 | 14.5 | 195.2 | 0 | 17.75 | 16 | 0 | Douglas Stotz |
| Calhoun | 160 | 2778 | 3 | 2 | 5:35 | 3:30 | 7 | 148 | 0 | 5.5 | 11.5 | 0 | Bill Atwood |
| Carroll | 159 | 4677 | 8 | 4 | 0:15 | 19:00 | 10.5 | 199.4 | 0 | 13 | 26.5 | 0 | Jeff Baughman |
| Cass | 133 | 1857 | 2 | 2 | 4:45 | 18:00 | 3.75 | 170 | 0 | 3.25 | 12 | 0 | Robert Randall |
| Champaign | 165 | 8325 | 36 | 16 | 5:15 | 20:30 | 46.8 | 261 | 2 | 76.05 | 28.75 | 2 | Beth Chato |
| Christian | 64 | 1195 | 5 | 2 | 5:15 | 2:30 | 5.5 | 45 | 0 | 5.5 | 4.5 | 0 | Natalie Mentzer |
| Clark | 119 | 1342 | 7 | 5 | 5:15 | 14:15 | 8.25 | 13.75 | 0 | 9 | 6.25 | 0 | Larry Thorsen |
| Clay | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. |
| Clinton | 173 | 8391 | 6 | 5 | 0:00 | 20:00 | 11.5 | 324.5 | 0 | 19.25 | 41.5 | 0 | Dan Kassebaum |
| Coles | 141 | 3547 | 15 | 5 | 4:05 | 18:50 | 14.75 | 89 | 0 | 22.5 | 14.75 | 0 | Tyler Funk |
| Cook | 208 | 44455 | 181 | 93 | 3:45 | 9:50 | 270.98 | 270.8 | 0 | 392.72 | 25.91 | 19.13 | Alan Anderson |
| Crawford | 70 | 820 | 3 | 2 | 6:00 | 18:30 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 9 | 23 | 0 | Patricia Neighbors |
| Cumberland | 117 | 1884 | 9 | 5 | 4:00 | 19:30 | 11 | 87 | 0 | 16.5 | 9.75 | 0 | Larry Thorsen |
| De Kalb | 150 | 10041 | 17 | 6 | 3:30 | 21:30 | 24.5 | 431 | 1 | 29.3 | 34.5 | 0.5 | Darrell Shambaugh |
| De Witt | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. |
| Douglas | 127 | 1281 | 1 | 1 | 5:44 | 16:00 | 2.5 | 77 | 0 | 2.25 | 8 | 0 | Tyler Funk |
| Du Page | 188 | 24309 | 93 | 63 | 4:00 | 21:00 | 211.49 | 349.1 | 0 | 257.33 | 31.63 | 0 | Ron Skleney |
| Edgar | 92 | 1235 | 2 | 1 | 5:15 | 15:05 | 1 | 69 | 0 | 2 | 7.5 | 0 | David Thomas |
| Edwards | 110 | 580 | 2 | 1 | 6:00 | 14:00 | 3 | 20 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 0 | Bob Shelby |
| Effingham | 129 | 7042 | 10 | 7 | 5:00 | 18:00 | 12 | 126 | 0 | 33 | 11 | 0 | Mary Ann Hoeffliger |
| Fayette | 121 | 5603 | 19 | 11 | 5:08 | 21:00 | 19 | 357.5 | 0 | 26.75 | 30 | 0 | Kathy Stokes |
| Ford | 79 | 871 | 1 | 1 | 5:55 | 14:25 | 2 | 27 | 0 | 4.83 | 1.87 | 0 | Eric Smith |
| Franklin | 110 | 2390 | 2 | 1 | 6:30 | 16:30 | 2 | 23 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 0 | Robert Drennan |
| Fulton | 139 | 6542 | 7 | 4 | 6:00 | 22:00 | 10 | 223 | 0 | 7.5 | 31 | 0 | Maury Brucker |
| Gallatin | 107 | 901 | 1 | 1 | 0:00 | 0:00 | 4.5 | 131 | 0 | 5.75 | 8.25 | 0 | Ron Bradley |
| Greene | 120 | 1032 | 2 | 1 | 5:05 | 7:05 | 4.1 | 125.6 | 0 | 7.5 | 6.5 | 0 | Bill Atwood |
| Grundy | 43 | 258 | 2 | 1 | 9:50 | 18:30 | 2.5 | 39 | 0 | 6.5 | 2.25 | 0 | Diane Cooper |
| Hamilton | 64 | 328 | 2 | 1 | 13:30 | 21:00 | 0.5 | 63 | 0 | 0.75 | 6.08 | 0 | Cathy DeNeal |
| Hancock | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. |
| Hardin | 97 | 845 | 1 | 1 | 0:00 | 0:00 | 0.8 | 57 | 0 | 1.66 | 11.08 | 0 | Elizabeth Raikes |
| Henderson | 126 | 1932 | 3 | 2 | 3:00 | 20:30 | 11 | 101 | 0 | 4.5 | 14 | 0 | Chuck Leib |
| Henry | 114 | 1268 | 1 | 1 | 4:47 | 8:27 | 3 | 114 | 0 | 3 | 13 | 0.5 | David Johnson |
| Iroquois | 107 | 2741 | 10 | 9 | 6:00 | 20:00 | 11.25 | 98 | 0 | 22.5 | 8.4 | 0 | William Burwell |
| Jackson | 144 | 4835 | 10 | 7 | 2:44 | 20:00 | 6.25 | 357 | 0 | 15.75 | 33 | 0 | Rhonda Rothrock |
| Jasper | 102 | 1090 | 2 | 2 | 5:00 | 1:00 | 4 | 191 | 0 | 4 | 8.5 | 0 | Scott Simpson |
| Jefferson | 136 | 1982 | 1 | 1 | 0:00 | 0:00 | 3.5 | 112 | 0 | 5 | 5.5 | 0 | Keith McMullen |
| Jersey | 130 | 2023 | 3 | 2 | 4:45 | 10:00 | 3.4 | 161.1 | 0 | 14 | 8 | 0 | Bill Atwood |
| Jo Daviess | 149 | 7644 | 27 | 8 | 6:00 | 19:30 | 21.7 | 531 | 0 | 30 | 55 | 0 | Grace Storch |
| Johnson | 116 | 1001 | 6 | 3 | 5:20 | 20:00 | 2.5 | 31 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 5 | Dave Enstrom |
| Kane | 165 | 13007 | 28 | 20 | 5:15 | 8:30 | 87 | 77 | 0 | 14.3 | 18.5 | 0 | Jon Duerr |
| Kankakee | 157 | 3833 | 15 | 7 | 5:00 | 21:00 | 21 | 221 | 0 | 50.42 | 8.17 | 0 | David Atkinson |
| Kendall | 157 | 7447 | 13 | 7 | 4:15 | 23:45 | 60.8 | 199.2 | 0 | 52.6 | 16.6 | 0 | Keith Johnson |
| Knox | 145 | 6121 | 12 | 10 | 1:45 | 22:30 | 12.85 | 295.2 | 0 | 14.52 | 40.21 | 8.18 | Jim Mountjoy |
| La Salle | 199 | 19746 | 44 | 26 | 2:00 | 20:30 | 112.7 | 445 | 0 | 96 | 52.5 | 186 | John D. McKee |
| Lake | 153 | 7321 | 17 | 8 | 4:15 | 8:00 | 29 | 555 | 15.5 | 36.5 | 46.5 | 1.25 | Adam Sell |
| Lawrence | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. |
| Lee | 105 | 1532 | 5 | 3 | 5:30 | 20:15 | 4.5 | 21 | 0 | 18.5 | 5 | 0 | John Bivins |

| County | # of Species | # of Birds | # of Obs | # of Parties | Start Time | End Time | Miles Walked | Miles Driven | Miles Other | Hours Walked | Hours Driven | Hours Other | Compiler |
|-------------|--------------|------------|----------|--------------|------------|----------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Livingston | 116 | 2348 | 1 | 1 | 5:00 | 8:00 | 10 | 5 | 0 | 12 | 1 | 0 | Scott Saffer |
| Logan | 111 | 2501 | 12 | 6 | 5:20 | 20:00 | 13.5 | 169.5 | 0 | 29.5 | 11.5 | 0 | Lara Borgerson |
| Macon | 115 | 2505 | 30 | 19 | 6:00 | 19:00 | 17.5 | 26.75 | 13 | 19.5 | 2.5 | 10 | Melody Arnold |
| Macoupin | 84 | 641 | 2 | 1 | 6:30 | 15:15 | 1 | 64 | 0 | 0.75 | 8 | 0 | Vaughn Suhling |
| Madison | 164 | 5757 | 21 | 5 | 4:00 | 21:30 | 19.7 | 157.5 | 0 | 25.5 | 15.25 | 0 | Frank Holmes |
| Marion | 114 | 812 | 1 | 1 | N.R. | N.R. | 1 | 60 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 | Terry Esker |
| Marshall | 90 | 891 | 1 | 1 | 6:00 | 4:30 | 4 | 87 | 0 | 4.1 | 5.9 | 0 | Carol Beatty |
| Mason | 157 | 6300 | 7 | 3 | 4:45 | 5:00 | 11 | 241 | 0 | 17.5 | 14.75 | 0 | Sigurd Bjorklund |
| Massac | 135 | 3642 | 1 | 1 | 3:00 | 20:19 | 4 | 120 | 0 | 8 | 6.8 | 0 | Frank Bennett |
| McDonough | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. |
| McHenry | 185 | 14600 | 44 | 19 | 5:15 | 20:00 | 83.5 | 509 | 0 | 73 | 60 | 0 | Rob Gough |
| McLean | 162 | 8105 | 23 | 10 | 5:23 | 20:25 | 58.45 | 87.8 | 0 | 72.45 | 6 | 0.5 | Angelo Capparella |
| Menard | 125 | 746 | 2 | 2 | 5:50 | 12:30 | 7 | 51 | 0 | 10 | 2.5 | 0 | Jim Herkert |
| Mercer | 152 | 6526 | 8 | 5 | 0:00 | 20:36 | 12.5 | 322 | 0 | 14.75 | 37.5 | 0 | Bill A. Bertrand |
| Monroe | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. | N.R. |
| Montgomery | 133 | 4730 | 6 | 4 | 4:40 | 22:00 | 17.5 | 160.5 | 0 | 27 | 8.5 | 0 | Mark Phipps, IDNR |
| Morgan | 159 | 4701 | 6 | 3 | 3:45 | 16:30 | 4 | 258 | 0 | 2.5 | 29 | 0 | Vaughn Suhling |
| Moultrie | 87 | 1416 | 1 | 1 | 9:00 | 17:00 | 3.5 | 70 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 0 | Craig Stettner |
| Ogle | 163 | 6447 | 9 | 6 | 5:45 | 21:45 | 37.75 | 377 | 0 | 41.5 | 23.5 | 2.5 | Russ Cline |
| Peoria | 152 | 5387 | 8 | 6 | 5:20 | 20:30 | 26.9 | 451 | 0 | 27.4 | 36.7 | 0 | Mike Miller |
| Perry | 107 | 731 | 1 | 1 | 6:00 | 19:00 | 7 | 20 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 0 | Brian Chandler |
| Piatt | 134 | 2741 | 14 | 6 | 5:00 | 8:00 | 39.25 | 42 | 0 | 63.5 | 3 | 0 | Nate Beccue |
| Pike | 153 | 5546 | 17 | 8 | 3:30 | 9:00 | 2 | 392 | 2.5 | 30.5 | 39.25 | 35 | Jim Funk |
| Pope | 119 | 2949 | 9 | 5 | 4:30 | 19:30 | 10.5 | 147.9 | 0 | 16.75 | 22.25 | 0 | Andrea Douglas |
| Pulaski | 126 | 2322 | 4 | 1 | 5:10 | 5:25 | 3 | 82.6 | 0 | 5 | 7.25 | 0 | Rhonda Rothrock |
| Putnam | 138 | 5628 | 3 | 2 | 3:50 | 17:35 | 8.5 | 64.4 | 0 | 7 | 15.75 | 0 | Douglas Stotz |
| Randolph | 141 | 2830 | 5 | 2 | 5:10 | 9:15 | 5 | 161.5 | 0 | 14 | 8.92 | 0 | Ann Sanders |
| Richland | 125 | 2683 | 13 | 7 | 5:00 | 20:30 | 3 | 264 | 0 | 7.5 | 36 | 0 | Pete C. Weber |
| Rock Island | 140 | 7346 | 21 | 10 | 3:40 | 7:20 | 26.8 | 365 | 0 | 35 | 35.25 | 0 | Tim Murphy |
| Saline | 166 | 4884 | 11 | 5 | 5:38 | 20:10 | 22.9 | 319 | 4 | 29.45 | 22.45 | 1.3 | Tara Beveroth |
| Sangamon | 153 | 2111 | 9 | 4 | 4:15 | 21:00 | 9 | 185 | 0 | 11.83 | 35.5 | 0 | Joe Gardner |
| Schuyler | 161 | 8038 | 13 | 10 | 3:50 | 19:30 | 61 | 193 | 0 | 55 | 15.5 | 0 | Carol Benninghoff |
| Scott | 58 | 386 | 2 | 1 | 6:15 | 9:15 | 1.4 | 9 | 0 | 1.75 | 1.25 | 0 | Marlys Bandy |
| Shelby | 109 | 1266 | 5 | 3 | 5:40 | 16:15 | 8.25 | 132 | 0 | 9.4 | 7.65 | 0 | Karen Forcum |
| St. Clair | 133 | 2139 | 3 | 2 | 4:00 | 21:30 | 5 | 267 | 0 | 8 | 12 | 0 | Richard Call |
| Stark | 117 | 2840 | 2 | 2 | 5:20 | 20:00 | 5 | 102 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | Jeff Walk |
| Stephenson | 60 | 449 | 2 | 1 | ** | ** | ** | ** | ** | ** | ** | ** | Mel Dotson |
| Tazewell | 148 | 2753 | 7 | 4 | 4:30 | 20:00 | 21 | 222 | 0 | 24 | 12.5 | 0 | Pete Fenner |
| Union | 145 | 4160 | 5 | 4 | 3:00 | 20:45 | 14 | 236 | 0 | 15 | 39 | 0 | Vernon Kleen |
| Vermilion | 156 | 6079 | 14 | 6 | 5:00 | 22:00 | 22.5 | 337 | 5 | 34 | 27.5 | 5 | Mary Jane Easterday |
| Wabash | 124 | 1367 | 5 | 4 | 5:30 | 19:00 | 2 | 88 | 0 | 2.5 | 13.5 | 0 | Jacque Cullison |
| Warren | 110 | 932 | 6 | 2 | 4:30 | 16:00 | 10 | 106 | 0 | 8 | 7 | 0 | Dustin Holschuh |
| Washington | 107 | 1180 | 10 | 5 | 6:00 | 22:30 | 5 | 29 | 0 | 23 | 2 | 0 | Martin Kemper |
| Wayne | 120 | 1042 | 2 | 1 | 5:45 | 13:45 | 4 | 28 | 0 | 4.5 | 3.5 | 0 | Marcia Shelby |
| White | 91 | 640 | 2 | 1 | 7:00 | 13:00 | 1 | 30 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 | Bob Shelby |
| Whiteside | 115 | 1690 | 2 | 1 | 4:30 | 18:30 | 3 | 106 | 0 | 8.7 | 4.5 | 0 | Randy Nyboer |
| Will | 163 | 12340 | 44 | 16 | 6:00 | 7:30 | 40 | 296 | 0 | 76 | 88 | 0 | Al Thomas |
| Williamson | 132 | 3675 | 3 | 2 | 4:30 | 20:00 | 2.75 | 78 | 0 | 8 | 9 | 0 | Vicki Lang-Mendenhall |
| Winnebago | 173 | 18250 | 33 | 18 | 4:00 | 20:30 | 84.05 | 749.9 | 7 | 97.35 | 52.75 | 1.25 | Jack Armstrong |
| Woodford | 153 | 2977 | 4 | 4 | 5:15 | 19:45 | 21.5 | 50.9 | 0 | 27.7 | 3 | 0 | Mary Jo Adams |

Table 3. Species accounts for the 2018 Spring Bird Count. * New Spring Bird Count High Total; # Ties Previous Spring Bird Count High Total; New species to Count in **and Underlined**; Species Reported from a Single County in **Face**

| Species | # of Counties | # of Birds | High County (Total) | Species | # of Counties | # of Birds | High County (Total) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------------|
| Black-bellied Whistling-Duck | 1# | 1 | LaSalle (1) | Little Blue Heron | 6 | 24 | Jackson (10) |
| Snow Goose | 14 | 226* | Fayette (120) | Cattle Egret | 13 | 50 | Jefferson (18) |
| Ross's Goose | 2# | 2# | 2 Counties (1) | Green Heron | 67 | 489 | Cook (106) |
| Greater White-fronted Goose | 4 | 128* | Putnam (125)* | Black-crowned Night-Heron | 16 | 174 | Cook (128) |
| Canada Goose | 96 | 16839 | Cook (1689) | Yellow-crowned Night-Heron | 4 | 4 | 4 Counties (1) |
| Mute Swan | 21 | 270 | Tazewell (95)* | Glossy Ibis | 1# | 1 | Clinton (1) |
| Trumpeter Swan | 4 | 11 | Carroll (4) | Black Vulture | 15 | 180 | Williamson (51) |
| Wood Duck | 89 | 2606 | Cook (247) | Turkey Vulture | 96 | 4482 | Pike (172) |
| Blue-winged Teal | 79 | 1962 | Cook (157) | Osprey | 35 | 107* | Clinton (19) |
| Cinnamon Teal | 2# | 2# | 2 Counties (1) | Mississippi Kite | 9 | 21 | Union (8) |
| Northern Shoveler | 41 | 594 | Putnam (103) | Northern Harrier | 32 | 73 | LaSalle (8) |
| Gadwall | 30 | 221 | Lake (46) | Sharp-shinned Hawk | 22 | 37 | DuPage (6) |
| American Wigeon | 7 | 55 | Jo Daviess (40) | Cooper's Hawk | 67 | 316 | DuPage (45) |
| Mallard | 86 | 4815 | DuPage (793) | Northern Goshawk | 1 | 1 | DuPage (1) |
| American Black Duck | 3 | 3 | 3 Counties | Bald Eagle | 77 | 560* | JoDaviess (80) |
| Northern Pintail | 6 | 38 | Fulton (30)* | Red-shouldered Hawk | 56* | 236 | Union (20) |
| Green-winged Teal | 23 | 152 | Brown (21) | Broad-winged Hawk | 34 | 66 | Rock Island (8) |
| Canvasback | 7# | 15 | Brown (4) | Red-tailed Hawk | 92 | 1232 | DuPage (96) |
| Redhead | 6 | 15 | Whiteside (9) | Yellow Rail | 1 | 1 | Lake (1) |
| Ring-necked Duck | 12 | 95 | Lake (52) | King Rail | 4 | 4 | 4 Counties (1) |
| Greater Scaup | 3 | 4 | Jo Daviess (2) | Virginia Rail | 28* | 85 | Lake (19) |
| Lesser Scaup | 26 | 284 | Carroll (56) | Sora | 61# | 880* | Cook (129) |
| Surf Scoter | 1 | 1 | Douglas (1) | Common Gallinule | 10 | 15 | Lake (4) |
| White-winged Scoter | 1 | 1 | McHenry (1) | American Coot | 77 | 7499 | Putnam (900) |
| Bufflehead | 15 | 186 | Cook (65) | Sandhill Crane | 21 | 360 | McHenry (98) |
| Common Goldeneye | 3 | 10 | Whiteside (7) | Whooping Crane | 1* | 3* | Sangamon (3)* |
| Hooded Merganser | 36 | 146 | McHenry (18) | Black-necked Stilt | 14 | 82* | Fulton (26) |
| Common Merganser | 7 | 16 | Cook (8) | American Avocet | 1 | 1 | Cook (1) |
| Red-breasted Merganser | 19 | 1699 | Lake (1050) | Black-bellied Plover | 3 | 6 | Clinton (4) |
| Ruddy Duck | 25 | 226 | Jefferson (65) | American Golden-Plover | 27 | 5165 | Montgomery (2400) |
| Northern Bobwhite | 59 | 386 | Fayette (39) | Semipalmated Plover | 20 | 151 | Clinton (42) |
| Ring-necked Pheasant | 55 | 481 | Stark (33) | Piping Plover | 1 | 2 | Lake (2) |
| Greater Prairie-Chicken | 2 | 31 | Jasper (25) | Killdeer | 95 | 2799 | DeKalb (172) |
| Wild Turkey | 87 | 1030 | Winnebago (131) | Upland Sandpiper | 3 | 6 | DeKalb (4) |
| Common Loon | 13 | 33 | Lake (8) | Stilt Sandpiper | 1 | 1 | Ogle (1) |
| Pied-billed Grebe | 56 | 258 | Cook (48) | Sanderling | 3 | 11 | Cook (7) |
| Horned Grebe | 8 | 57 | Lake (32) | Dunlin | 26 | 128 | Clinton (39) |
| Eared Grebe | 2 | 3 | Cook (2) | Baird's Sandpiper | 6* | 15 | Winnebago (8) |
| Double-crested Cormorant | 71* | 11124 | Cook (3282) | Least Sandpiper | 62 | 1481 | Madison (218) |
| American White Pelican | 38 | 6626* | Fayette (1156)* | White-rumped Sandpiper | 11 | 23 | McLean (5) |
| Brown Pelican | 1* | 1* | Pike (1)* | Pectoral Sandpiper | 56 | 1756 | Jasper (260) |
| American Bittern | 12 | 23 | Lake (5) | Semipalmated Sandpiper | 24 | 127 | Fulton (22) |
| Least Bittern | 9* | 10 | DuPage (2) | Short-billed Dowitcher | 23 | 113 | Mason (26) |
| Great Blue Heron | 94 | 3181 | Will (327) | Long-billed Dowitcher | 4 | 20 | Clinton (13) |
| Great Egret | 56 | 1672 | Will (320) | American Woodcock | 23 | 98 | Lake (25) |
| Snowy Egret | 5 | 20 | St. Clair (10) | Wilson's Snipe | 27 | 193 | Cook (71)* |

| Species | # of Counties | # of Birds | High County (Total) | Species | # of Counties | # of Birds | High County (Total) |
|---------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------------|
| Wilson's Phalarope | 22 | 137 | Ogle (41) | Alder Flycatcher | 2 | 2 | 2 Counties (1) |
| Spotted Sandpiper | 77 | 1062 | Cook (121) | Willow Flycatcher | 20 | 38 | Cook (10) |
| Solitary Sandpiper | 77 | 996 | Cook (119) | Least Flycatcher | 62 | 373 | Cook (36) |
| Greater Yellowlegs | 59 | 740 | Kane (96) | Eastern Phoebe | 90 | 1478 | DuPage (74) |
| Willet | 8 | 146* | Lake (88)* | Great Crested Flycatcher | 91 | 1418 | Winnebago (68) |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | 73 | 2186 | Clinton (171) | Western Kingbird | 3 | 3 | 3 Counties (1) |
| Bonaparte's Gull | 10 | 451 | Clinton (345) | Eastern Kingbird | 95 | 2331 | Pike (121) |
| Franklin's Gull | 2 | 4 | Clinton (3) | Loggerhead Shrike | 7 | 12 | Edwards (4) |
| Ring-billed Gull | 47 | 5399 | Cook (3625) | White-eyed Vireo | 72 | 1058 | Union (152) |
| Herring Gull | 17 | 243 | Lake (129) | Bell's Vireo | 27 | 69 | Pulaski (10) |
| Iceland Gull | 1 | 1 | Lake (1) | Yellow-throated Vireo | 80 | 548 | Winnebago (27) |
| Caspian Tern | 22 | 833 | Cook (366) | Blue-headed Vireo | 45 | 201 | DuPage (28) |
| Black Tern | 6 | 19 | Clinton (5) | Philadelphia Vireo | 37 | 73 | Randolph (5) |
| Common Tern | 13 | 76 | Randolph (26) | Warbling Vireo | 88 | 1634 | Cook (106) |
| Forster's Tern | 29 | 572 | Williamson (130) | Red-eyed Vireo | 81 | 883 | Union (59) |
| Rock Pigeon | 80 | 1984 | Cook (258) | Blue Jay | 96 | 7138 | Cook (700) |
| Eurasian Collared-Dove | 66 | 306 | Sangamon (29) | American Crow | 95 | 3824 | Champaign (204) |
| White-winged Dove | 1* | 1* | Cook (1)* | Fish Crow | 20 | 250 | Alexander (60) |
| Mourning Dove | 96 | 6789 | DuPage (427) | Horned Lark | 74 | 827 | Adams (84) |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | 34 | 65 | Jackson (7) | Northern Rough-winged Swallow | 84 | 2528 | Cook (515) |
| Black-billed Cuckoo | 2 | 5 | Pike (4) | Purple Martin | 81 | 2433 | Fayette (206) |
| Barn Owl | 3 | 3 | 3 Counties (1) | Tree Swallow | 93 | 6760 | DuPage (815) |
| Eastern Screech-Owl | 36 | 66 | Lake (8) | Bank Swallow | 55 | 870 | Winnebago (99) |
| Great Horned Owl | 60 | 236 | Pike (16) | Barn Swallow | 94 | 6058 | Cook (566) |
| Barred Owl | 79 | 628* | Mercer (61) | Cliff Swallow | 78 | 5351 | Alexander (475) |
| Long-eared Owl | 1 | 1 | JoDaviess (1) | Carolina Chickadee | 39 | 544 | Effingham (49) |
| Common Nighthawk | 44 | 183 | 2 Counties (18) | Black-capped Chickadee | 59 | 3248 | DuPage (357) |
| Chuck-will's-widow | 9 | 33 | White (11) | Tufted Titmouse | 92 | 2514 | Jackson (135) |
| Eastern Whip-poor-will | 30 | 206 | Henderson (39) | Red-breasted Nuthatch | 20 | 57 | McHenry (8) |
| Chimney Swift | 88 | 2464 | Cook (253) | White-breasted Nuthatch | 93 | 2174 | DuPage (200)* |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | 85 | 676 | Massac (46) | Brown Creeper | 23 | 78 | Cook (27) |
| Belted Kingfisher | 63 | 267 | Cook (29) | House Wren | 89 | 4816 | Winnebago (400) |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | 95 | 1693 | Mercer (118) | Winter Wren | 6 | 10 | 4 Counties (2) |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 95 | 3668 | DuPage (313) | Sedge Wren | 26 | 72 | Cook (10) |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 22 | 49 | JoDaviess (9) | Marsh Wren | 44 | 245 | Cook (60) |
| Downy Woodpecker | 94 | 2523 | Cook (286)* | Carolina Wren | 90 | 1269 | Sangamon (69) |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 80 | 501 | Cook (51) | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 94 | 3908 | Cook (346) |
| Northern Flicker | 87 | 1784 | Cook (219) | Golden-crowned Kinglet | 11 | 50 | Cook (27) |
| Pileated Woodpecker | 85 | 381 | Union (23) | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 72 | 1675 | Cook (411) |
| American Kestrel | 79 | 319 | Cook (14) | Eastern Bluebird | 93 | 1621 | DuPage (81) |
| Merlin | 3 | 5 | 2 Counties (2) | Veery | 56 | 357 | Cook (73) |
| Peregrine Falcon | 9 | 14 | Cook (4) | Gray-cheeked Thrush | 77* | 596 | Cook (100) |
| Monk Parakeet | 2 | 13 | DuPage (12) | Swainson's Thrush | 89 | 3229* | Cook (547) |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | 11 | 13 | 2 Counties (2) | Hermit Thrush | 29 | 177 | Cook (45) |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | 81 | 581 | Alexander (38) | Wood Thrush | 91 | 1198 | Winnebago (68) |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | 4 | 5 | Jackson (2) | American Robin | 95 | 27772 | Cook (2529) |
| Acadian Flycatcher | 48 | 279 | Union (31) | Gray Catbird | 94 | 5477 | Cook (695) |

| Species | # of Counties | # of Birds | High County (Total) | Species | # of Counties | # of Birds | High County (Total) |
|------------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------------|
| Brown Thrasher | 94 | 1786 | JoDaviess (93) | LeConte's Sparrow | 3 | 6 | Cook (3) |
| Northern Mockingbird | 63 | 324 | 2 Counties (19) | Nelson's Sparrow | 1 | 1 | Cook (1) |
| European Starling | 95 | 11684 | Cook (825) | American Tree Sparrow | 5 | 14 | Carroll (8) |
| American Pipit | 24 | 205 | Alexander (45) | Chipping Sparrow | 96 | 5324 | Winnebago (290) |
| Cedar Waxwing | 52 | 846 | DuPage (98) | Clay-colored Sparrow | 21* | 85 | Cook (24) |
| Pine Grosbeak | 1* | 1* | JoDaviess (1)* | Field Sparrow | 92 | 2985 | DuPage (194) |
| Smith's Longspur | 5* | 112* | Mason (60)* | Lark Sparrow | 46 | 233 | Mercer (37) |
| Ovenbird | 82# | 643 | Cook (122) | Fox Sparrow | 3 | 3 | 3 Counties (1) |
| Worm-eating Warbler | 26 | 66 | Jackson (7) | Dark-eyed Junco | 13 | 32 | Cook (8) |
| Louisiana Waterthrush | 64* | 262 | Union (19) | White-crowned Sparrow | 89 | 3305 | Cook (889) |
| Northern Waterthrush | 79 | 1745 | Cook (365) | Harris's Sparrow | 3 | 4 | Carroll (2) |
| Golden-winged Warbler | 56 | 276 | Morgan (21) | White-throated Sparrow | 87 | 5569 | Cook (1430) |
| Blue-winged Warbler | 59 | 345 | DuPage (30) | Vesper Sparrow | 48 | 349 | Mercer (41) |
| Black-and-white Warbler | 81 | 882 | Cook (202) | Savannah Sparrow | 84 | 1839* | Alexander (154) |
| Prothonotary Warbler | 74* | 456 | Mason (24) | Song Sparrow | 91 | 5547 | DuPage (654) |
| Swainson's Warbler | 1 | 4 | Alexander (4) | Lincoln's Sparrow | 55 | 313 | Cook (85) |
| Tennessee Warbler | 88 | 2339 | Sangamon (111) | Swamp Sparrow | 70 | 2423 | Cook (795) |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | 37 | 190 | Cook (41) | Eastern Towhee | 92 | 2573* | Jackson (38) |
| Nashville Warbler | 79 | 1878 | Cook (219) | Yellow-breasted Chat | 72 | 520 | Union (47) |
| Connecticut Warbler | 6 | 7 | Winnebago (2) | Summer Tanager | 75* | 576 | Williamson (39) |
| Mourning Warbler | 14 | 23 | Johnson (5) | Scarlet Tanager | 80 | 491 | Hardin (25) |
| Kentucky Warbler | 65 | 381 | Jackson (41) | Western Tanager | 1# | 1# | Cook (1)# |
| Common Yellowthroat | 94 | 4131 | Cook (327) | Northern Cardinal | 96 | 10087 | DuPage (591) |
| Hooded Warbler | 28 | 65 | Jackson (16) | Rose-breasted Grosbeak | 94 | 3883 | DuPage (170) |
| American Redstart | 85 | 1573 | Rock Island (111) | Blue Grosbeak | 63* | 280 | Alexander (22) |
| Cape May Warbler | 41 | 90 | Cook (11) | Indigo Bunting | 95 | 5453 | Alexander (484) |
| Cerulean Warbler | 30 | 98 | Jo Daviess (12) | Dickcissel | 86 | 2833 | Alexander (230) |
| Northern Parula | 85 | 1207 | Jackson (76) | Yellow-headed Blackbird | 6 | 22 | McHenry (10) |
| Magnolia Warbler | 74 | 417 | Cook (57) | Bobolink | 68 | 1405 | Madison (140) |
| Bay-breasted Warbler | 27 | 70 | Cook (13) | Western Meadowlark | 20 | 95 | Mercer (26) |
| Blackburnian Warbler | 60 | 231 | Cook (23) | Eastern Meadowlark | 94 | 2691 | JoDaviess (199) |
| Yellow Warbler | 88 | 3653* | Cook (475) | Orchard Oriole | 85 | 585 | DuPage (32) |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler | 66 | 394 | Cook (35) | Baltimore Oriole | 94 | 3082 | Cook (187) |
| Blackpoll Warbler | 66 | 431 | Alexander (34) | Red-winged Blackbird | 96 | 47617 | Cook (3688) |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | 16 | 34 | Cook (13) | Brown-headed Cowbird | 96 | 10043 | Cook (820) |
| Palm Warbler | 90 | 11381 | Cook (3223)* | Rusty Blackbird | 2 | 5 | Kankakee (4) |
| Pine Warbler | 43* | 131 | 2 Counties (15) | Brewer's Blackbird | 5 | 57 | Lake (22) |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | 93 | 8020 | Cook (1775) | Common Grackle | 96 | 13740 | DeKalb (999) |
| Yellow-throated Warbler | 58# | 255 | Vermillion (24) | Great-tailed Grackle | 2* | 6* | Johnson (5)* |
| Prairie Warbler | 28 | 207 | Pope (52) | House Finch | 87 | 1768 | DuPage (99) |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | 75 | 631 | Cook (99) | Purple Finch | 16 | 62 | Pike (11) |
| Canada Warbler | 7 | 7 | 7 Counties (1) | Pine Siskin | 30 | 191 | Saline (21) |
| Wilson's Warbler | 34 | 69 | Cook (13) | American Goldfinch | 96 | 9280 | Cook (697) |
| Grasshopper Sparrow | 41 | 245 | JoDaviess (25) | House Sparrow | 95 | 8795 | Cook (801) |
| Henslow's Sparrow | 37 | 183 | JoDaviess (16) | Eurasian Tree Sparrow | 36* | 678* | Mercer (183) |