

# HAWK WATCH

*By Peter Friederici*

Danny Diaz tried to concentrate on his work one sunny Friday afternoon in September as a Broad-winged Hawk flew by the window of his Waukegan office. Diaz kept glancing out his window, which provides south and westerly views as broadwings and Sharp-shinned Hawks continued to sail by.

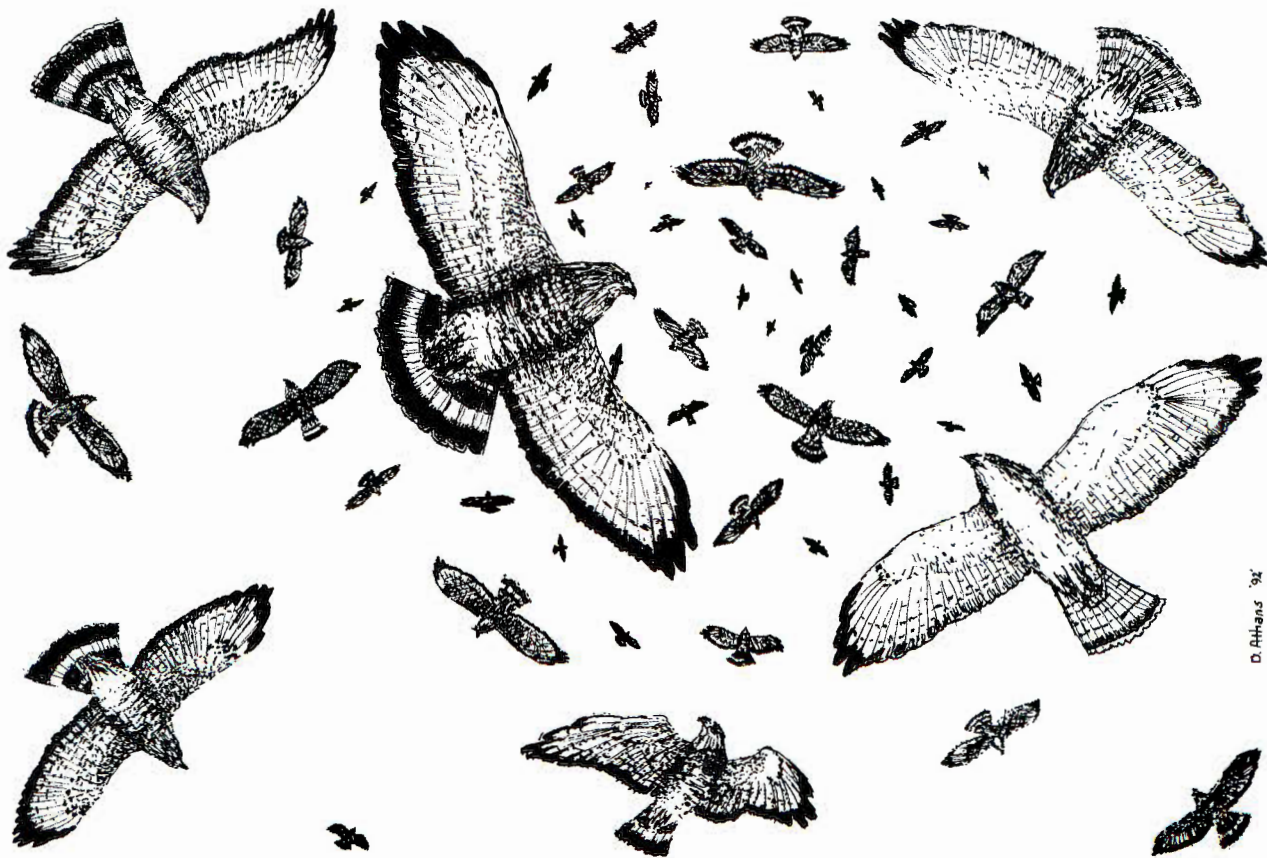
Sometime after lunch, Diaz may have just as well taken his phone off the hook. "The broadwings really started com-

ing," he said. "Sometimes there would be a whole column of hawks rising in a thermal. It looked like a small tornado."

One kettle consisted of at least 200 birds and Diaz was not about to go back to work. Diaz saw nearly 800 broadwings from his window that afternoon. He later learned other observers that day saw up to 1,700 broadwings, 66 sharpshins, 17 Ospreys and 16 Merlins in Waukegan's Bowen

Park and nearby Illinois Beach State Park.

The flight of the mid-September day demonstrates how exciting it can be to witness migrating hawks, one of the fastest growing spheres of birding. Hawk watching's popularity stems from the fact that it presents both strenuous identification puzzles and heart-pounding excitement. It mingles time-dragging periods of inactivity with adrenaline-flushed



*Danny Diaz found his workday hopelessly disrupted by kettles of migrating Broad-winged Hawks. Drawing by David Athans.*