

4. *All the Birds of Prey (Compact Guide)*, by Jack L. Griggs (1999)

A compact pocket-sized guidebook that can be carried in the field and has excellent descriptions and colored plates of hawks and owls. A short section written on hawk watch sites by one of the country's superlative hawk counters, Jerry Ligouri, is well worth reading. Although this book is not as thorough as the Peterson Guide, it has information not found elsewhere. Carry in your backpack for quick and easy reference.

5. *Flight Identification of European Raptors*, by R.F. Porter, Ian Willis, Steen Christensen, & Bent Pors Nielsen (1974)

Although the majority of the hawks covered in this book are only found in Europe, a few such as Golden Eagle, Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Harrier, and Goshawk are also found in North America. The plates and descriptions are very thorough and offer a few details not found in other guidebooks. It is also interesting to have some knowledge of hawks that may drift over the Atlantic one day, so why not be prepared?

6. *The Complete Birder, A Guide to Better Birding*, by Jack Connor (1988)

Covers all aspects of birding through all four seasons, and is great reading. The ID section on hawks offers a new insight on identification. The section on accipiter ID is superb.

7. *How To Spot Hawks & Eagles*, by Clay Sutton & Patricia Taylor Sutton (1996)

Another book to add to your shelf that includes not only a terrific section on hawk migration, but also where to find hawks year-round. Excellent photos complement the pages and the text is well-researched by the authors. The acknowledgment section is comparable to a list of the country's top hawkwatchers.

8. *Hawks, Eagles, & Falcons of North America*, by Paul A. Johnsgard (1990)

The most detailed and completely written book on the subject of North American hawks. The appendices and reference section include a glossary and a large biography of hawk related publications. This book is an asset to those wanting deeper knowledge of hawk biology and natural history. Breeding areas are thorough, and identification descriptions of all age groups of hawks are fully covered. It may not be a field book, but it's another must for the serious student of hawks.

9. *Flight Strategies of Migrating Hawks*, by Paul Kerlinger (1989)

The most scientific text written on hawk migration to date. The author educates the reader on all the terms used when describing hawk migration, and then some. It is filled with interesting charts, statistics, and mathematical formulas. Explanations of the whys and wheres of hawk migration are covered with incredible detail. Don't let this book scare you; it is enlightening..

10. *Season at the Point, The Birds and Birders of Cape May*, by Jack Connor (1991)

Superb reading material. The author takes the reader through a complete season at Cape May Point and fills the pages with the area's rich natural history and the people who have been instrumental in the development of the bird observatory. You may find yourself reading this book over and over again.

came to 3,751 raptors and 15 species. Highlights included an all-time single day high count of 479 Merlins on 14 October 1995 followed by another 63 Merlins counted the following day! Birders also counted 461 Sharp-shinned Hawks on 14 October 1995, followed by a spectacular count of 1,949 Sharp-shins the next day.

A little closer to home, on the very same October weekend in 1995 at Illinois Beach State Park, a small group of Chicagoland birders (Eric Walters, Bob Erickson, Wes Serafin, and Josh Engel) also witnessed a record flight of hawks. The total for 14 and 15 October 1995 was 1,380 raptors. The Merlin count on the 14 October 1995 was 93 followed by 9 more Merlins the next day. Birders tallied 110 Sharp-shinned Hawks on 14 October, and 531 the next day.

The question of why more hawks are counted at Concordia every year than at Illinois Beach State Park, which is less than 70 miles south, may remain unanswered for many years. Do the hawks drift away from Milwaukee as they head south? The Chicago lakefront has never really recorded any hawk flights of size, either. But just a few miles southwest of the city and a few miles east of Wheaton, Hal Cohen and a small band of volunteer hawk watchers have recorded sizable hawk flights in the fall at Mt. Hoy. Are the hawks that disperse over Milwaukee and farther down the lakefront near Chicago the same ones that end up at Mt. Hoy? The data at least point in that direction.

Thermals and Other Terms

All across the state of Wisconsin and northern Illinois, on any given day in the fall, hawks are migrating south, especially on days offering the best conditions for traveling in the air. Many terms such as thermal lift and backside of a cold front aid in the