



1 = Mississippi Palisades State Park; 2 = Illinois Beach State Park;
3 = Mt. Hoy; 4 = Eldon Hazlet State Park.

Wind and weather: Northeast to northwest winds are best. Clear days produce heavily used thermals above the stone bluffs.

Highlights: From the high stone bluffs you might see eight or more raptor species including falcons. Ospreys follow the river and accipiters shoot by at eye level.

ILLINOIS BEACH STATE PARK

Where to go: Hawk watchers

prefer the two observation platforms near the Dead River, or the roof of the nature center, south of the entrance road. Illinois Beach State Park is off Sheridan Road south of Zion and north of Waukegan. The ball diamond at nearby Bowen Park at Sheridan Road and Greenwood Avenue in Waukegan is a good bluff top vantage point.

When to go: Last two weeks of September are good for peregrines, broadwings, Ospreys

and sharpshins. For Merlins, redtails and harriers, try the last two weeks of October.

Wind and weather: West winds push migrating hawks against the lake front. Southwest winds following a low-pressure may be best.

Highlights: Watch for the powerful flying Peregrine Falcons and Merlins which hug the shoreline.

MT. HOY

Where to go: Enter Blackwell Forest Preserve off Butterfield Road (Route 56) just north of Warrenville. The blacktop path up Mt. Hoy begins at the second parking area near the fishing piers.

When to go: Mid-September to early October. The broadwing flights typically peak about the fourth week of September.

Wind and weather: Southeast to southwest winds often bring the greatest numbers, though north to northwest winds can be productive.

ELDON HAZLET STATE PARK

Where to go: Bird watchers often have good luck at the raised platform on the Cherokee trail in the park on the west shore of Carlyle Lake, 25 miles southwest of Vandalia.

When to go: Mid-September through October.

Wind and weather: Watch for a cold front coming from the