

north and sweeping birds in front of it.

Highlights: Hawks follow the bluffs of the old Kaskaskia River valley. One exceptional flight in early October 1988 included 2,178 Broad-winged Hawks, 177 Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 44 American Kestrels.

INDIANA DUNES STATE PARK

Where to go: "Almost any high dune will do as long as you have an unobstructed view," says Bobby Squires, regional editor for the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA). Squires prefers Johnson Beach Dune at the

western edge of the park. Several parking areas are available off Route 49, north of I-94.

When to go: Spring is best, although fall hawk watchers have seen a few Peregrine Falcons. Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks pass through beginning in early March. The first half of April is good for the best mix of species. Broad-winged Hawks peak about the third week in April.

Wind and weather: Try 24 to 48 hours before a low-pressure system comes through. Southeast to southwest winds bring the hawks near the lake front. Light cloud cover keeps broad-wings from rising out of sight on thermals.



5 = Indiana Dunes State Park.

Highlights: Squires saw 771 hawks on April 19 last year. ■

HAWK SILHOUETTES

Buteos - These raptors have broad wings and broad, rounded tails. During migration, they often soar in wide circles high in the air. Examples: Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk.

Accipiters - These hawks have short, wide, rounded wings and long tails. They typically fly in a flap, flap, flap, sail pattern. Examples: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk.

Falcons - These streamlined raptors have long pointed wings and long, compressed, and tapered tails. Falcons fly with strong, rowing wing beats. Examples: Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, American Kestrel.