

<b>Species</b>	<b>2003 Totals</b>	<b>Year Record</b>	<b>Day Record</b>
Turkey Vulture	317	390 (2001)	195 (10-6-2001)
Osprey	255	255 (2003)	66 (9-10-2001)
Bald Eagle	22	22 (2003)	7 (10-26-2001)
Northern Harrier	189	232 (2001)	101 (10-26-2001)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1,454	1,454 (2003)	244 (10-15-2003)
Cooper's Hawk	155	155 (2003)	19 (10-6-2001)
Northern Goshawk	13	15 (2000)	4 (11-3-2000)
Red-shouldered Hawk	75	75 (2003)	38 (11-13-2003)
Broad-winged Hawk	9,553	9,553 (2003)	3,193 (9-24-2003)
Red-tailed Hawk	1,987	1,987 (2003)	360 (10-26-2001)
Rough-legged Hawk	58	58 (2003)	15 (11-7-2003)
Golden Eagle	2	7 (2000)	2 (10-26-2001)
American Kestrel	88	88 (2003)	15 (10-3-2001)
Merlin	508	508 (2003)	132 (10-12-2003)
Peregrine Falcon	148	148 (2003)	41 (10-3-2001)
Unidentified Raptor	84		
<b>Total Raptors</b>	<b>14,908</b>		

for large Broad-winged tallies, Illinois Beach had 9,553 come through between the third week of September and the first week of October. The end of September usually marks the peak of Peregrine Falcons. The Peregrine Falcon count's single biggest day occurred 24 September with 36.

Illinois Beach is rapidly becoming known nationwide as a significant fall falcon migration route for Merlin and Peregrine Falcon. Along with the hawkwatch at Concordia University, just north of Milwaukee, only a few east coast hawkwatches, such as Cape May, exceed in Merlin and Peregrine Falcon count totals.

As October rolls in so do the Merlin, with the second week usually being the best. Illinois Beach's best Merlin day in 2003 was 12 October with 132 Merlins counted, a new state and site single day record. The majority of the day's flight came after 3 p.m. and lasted until 6 p.m. During the four day period of 12 October to 15

October, Illinois Beach recorded 317 Merlins.

By November, buteos take hold and the best days for Red-tailed Hawk movement occurred 7 November with 320 and 13 November with 326. Rough-legged Hawks made a decent showing for a site this far south 5 November (11) and 7 November (15). Red-shouldered Hawks best day was 13 November with 38 counted.

Vic Berardi and Janice Sweet organized the count with the help of the many volunteer hours put in by Eric DelBecq, Paul Sweet, Chris Whittier, Audrey Smith, Rick Schmude, Liza Gray, Bill Zineveah,

Tom Mulcahy, Steve Huggins, Joan Bruchman, Erica Gasperik, Roger Hotham, Bob & Kathy Andrini, Jim Kriss, Suzanne Checchia, Al Kostyniak, Jeff Sanders, Bill Wengelowski, Michael Marlow. On the busy days we also had the help of Wes Serafin, Al Stokie, Bob Erickson, Bob Hughes, Kanee Hirabayashi, Dave Johnson, Joel Greenberg, Dave Weichers, Don Dann and Andy Sigler. The count ran from 30 August 2003 through 30 November 2003.

— Vic Berardi

For more information on the hawkwatch at Illinois Beach State Park go to the Web site:  
[www.hawksinthesky.com](http://www.hawksinthesky.com)

If you would like to help at the hawkwatch, please contact Vic Berardi at (847) 680-5281 or by email at [VBirdman@aol.com](mailto:VBirdman@aol.com).