

NORTHERN GOSHAWK

ACCIPITER GENTILIS

DISTINGUISHING MARKS:

Northern goshawk is larger than a crow, its wings are short and wide and tail long. Back is grey or brown, light crosswise striped (old) or top-to-bottom striped (young.) Female clearly bigger than male (female 65 cm long, weight 1,3 kg. male 55 cm, weight about 900 g).

PREVALENCE:

Nests in small number almost in the whole country, more common in South and Central Finland.

HABITAT:

Nests are in peaceful, old natural state mixed forests. Marshes and watercourses belong to the habitat, too.

LIFE STYLES:

Old individuals are domicile birds, younger wander from October to Scandinavia or to Russia and return in March-April. When northern goshawk has its courtship, it curves alone or in pairs over its territory. Often noisy nagging voice.

NOURISHMENT:

Medium sized birds, especially fowls and mammals.

BREEDING:

Goshawk's nest is in crown of a strong tree (commonly spruce) and it's been settled for many years. Dry branches are used as building material and spruce needles as decor. Goshawk lays 3-5 whitish eggs in April- May, which female bathes for 5 weeks. Chicks grow up while the male takes care of preying and the female dismembers the food. In about age of 2 months chicks hunt themselves their own catch.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE POPULATION:

As a result of persecution, population has nowadays decreased to 6000 couples. Bad food situation and the diminution of the nesting possibilities have weakened the species. Old forests reduce, and new nesting trees firm enough are hard to find.

PRESERVATION:

Nowadays protected. Right forestry customs are essential when assuring the nesting possibilities and the availability of the haul animals.

