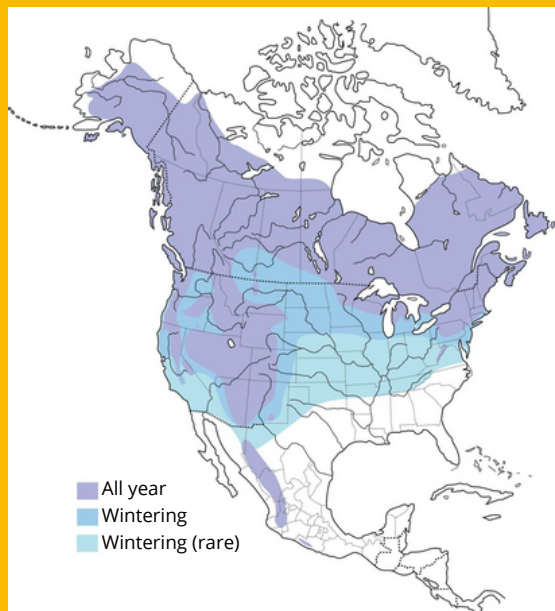
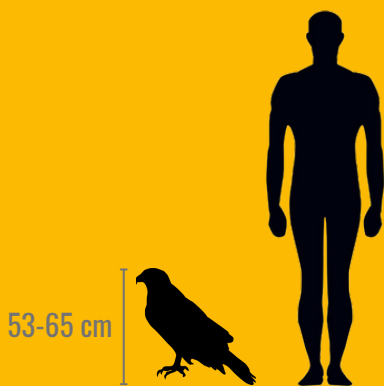




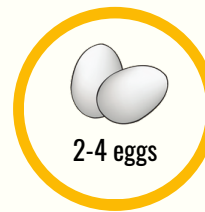
IDENTIFICATION

The American Goshawk is the largest of Quebec's three hawks. Its dark blue-gray back and light-gray and finely striped adult breast clearly distinguish it from other hawks. Its white eyebrow contrasts with the black headband. Its slightly rounded tail is crossed by 3 to 4 dark gray stripes.



American Goshawk

Accipiter atricapillus



ECOLOGY

Nutrition

The American Goshawk, formerly known as the Northern Goshawk, feeds mainly on hares and squirrels, occasionally on ruffed grouse, crows and ducks. In more northerly regions, it may also prey on ptarmigan, grouse and lemmings. Its prey can weigh up to half its body weight.

Breeding

Like other hawks, the nest is made of branches and twigs, with a bark-lined bottom. Couples often use the same nesting site, and may alternate between two to five nests in a territory over several years. The young take their first flight 6 weeks after hatching. They then depend on their parents until they are 11 to 13 weeks old.

DISTRIBUTION

This species frequents forests of tall, densely foliated trees. It breeds from Alaska to Newfoundland, south to the mountains of Mexico. It is a resident species in Quebec.

STATUS AND POPULATION

The species is considered secure¹. The destruction of its habitat by logging is thought to be the main cause of the population's decline.

¹ Wild species of Canada report, 2015