

# Northern Goshawk

## Accipiter gentilis

### Description

The Northern Goshawk thrives in various habitats, preferring coniferous and deciduous forests but also adapting to urban environments.

This medium-sized raptor boasts striking plumage with mottled black, grey, and white feathers, complemented by vivid red eyes. Their flight capabilities are well-suited for navigating dense forests, employing a "flap, flap, glide" pattern for efficient hunting and soaring during migration.

Known for their defensive nature, Northern Goshawks fiercely protect their nests, exhibiting bold behaviour to deter threats, even confronting larger animals and humans. Their ability to sustain speeds of up to 40 miles per hour in pursuit of prey underscores their agility and hunting prowess in forested landscapes.

### FUN FACTS

- It hunts at forest edges from perches to startle prey, and ambushes from dense tree foliage.
- During courtship, they engage in impressive flight displays and vocalizations.
- They construct large nests of sticks, bark, and greenery, often near the trunk of a prominent tree within their territory.
- They sometimes construct multiple nests as backups.

If you find an injured or orphaned wild animal, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society hotline at 403-214-1312, for tips, instructions and advice.

