



Goshawk. Adult. Male (06-IV).

**NORTHERN GOSHAWK**  
(*Accipiter gentilis*)

**IDENTIFICATION**

**Male:** 48-61 cm; **female:** 58-64 cm. Short and rounded wings and long tail; yellow or orange iris; tail with 4-5 bands; grey brown upperparts; pale and barred underparts. **Juveniles** are brown with pale underparts mottled brown.



Goshawk. Adult. Pattern of head and breast.



Goshawk. Juvenile. Pattern of head and breast.

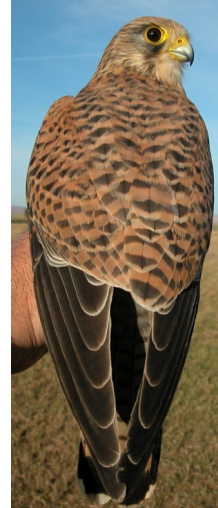


**SIMILAR SPECIES**

**Kestrel** and **Lesser Kestrel** have long tails, but have dark iris and rufous upperparts. **Female Sparrowhawk** can be very similar to a **male Goshawk** but has a smaller size; **juvenile Sparrowhawk** has barred underparts.



Kestrel. Female.



Sparrowhawk. Juvenile .



S p a -  
rrowhawk.  
Female .

**SEXING**

In **adult** birds, **male** with bluish grey upperparts; ear covers deep grey. **Female** with brownish upperparts; ear-coverts light grey or brownish. **Female** with bigger size than **male**. In **juveniles**, plumage of both sexes alike but can be sexed by size.

**CAUTION:** head and upperparts pattern is individually very variable; size in this species is very different depending on its geographical location (northern birds bigger than southern ones), so it would be necessary to know the geographical origin to sex by size without errors.

# 02670 Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)



Goshawk Sexing. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female.



Goshawk Sexing. Pattern of upperparts: left male; right female.

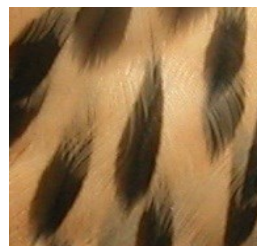
## AGEING

3 age groups can be recognized:

**Juvenil** with brown streaked head with only a slight supercilium; feathers of upperparts brown with pale edge; pale underparts with dark vertical streaks; pale yellow iris.

**2nd year autumn/3rd year spring** with grey brown upperparts with brown and worn retained **juvenil** feathers specially on rump and mantle; with some brown **juvenil** feathers retained on wing coverts, specially on lesser and median coverts; breast feathers with 3 or 4 transversal broad and brown lines, sometimes tinged rufous; sometimes with some narrow, brownish and worn **juvenil** secondaries retained; yellow or yellow-orange iris.

**Adult** with uniformly dark crown and ear-coverts with clear white supercilium; uniform brown grey or slate-brown upperparts, sometimes with thinly white tipped feathers; breast feathers with 4 or 5 transversal narrow and grey-brown lines, the outermost narrower than the others; if retained secondaries then with **adult** pattern; orange to red iris.



Goshawk Ageing. Pattern of breast feathers: top left adult; top right 2nd year autumn; left juvenil.



Goshawk Ageing. Pattern of upperparts: left adult; right juvenil.



**02670 Northern Goshawk** (*Accipiter gentilis*)**MOULT**

Complete **postbreeding** moult but central secondaries often retained; usually finished in September. **Postjuvenile** moult begins in **2nd year** and is complete but occasionally some central secondaries, rump feathers and wing coverts retained.

**PHENOLOGY**

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

■ Summer visitor    ■ Resident  
■ Wintering        ■ On passage



Goshawk. Adult. Female (12-XII).

**PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE**

Goshawk. 2nd year autumn. Male ().



Goshawk. 2nd year autumn. Female (20-XI).



Goshawk. Juvenile. Male (30-VII).



Goshawk. Juvenile. Female (06-X).

# 02670 Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)



Goshawk. Adult. Head pattern: top male (06-IV30-VII); bottom female (12-XII).

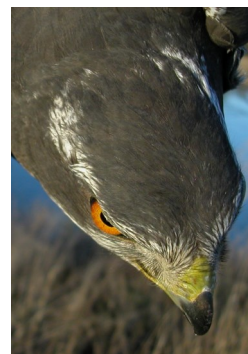


Goshawk. Juvenile. Head pattern: top male (30-VII); bottom female (06-X).



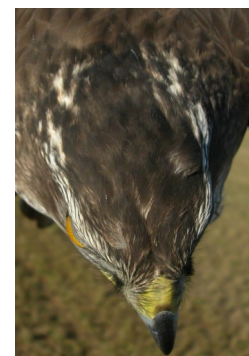
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Goshawk. 2nd year autumn. Head pattern: top male (); bottom female (20-XI).



Goshawk. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (06-IV); right female (12-XII).

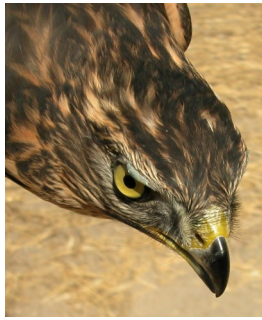
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Goshawk. 2nd year autumn. Crown pattern: left male (); right female (20-XI).



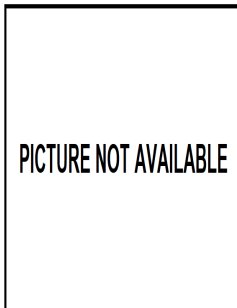
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Goshawk. Juvenile. Crown pattern: left male (30-VII); right female (06-X).



Goshawk. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (06-IV); right female (12-XII).



Goshawk. 2nd year autumn. Breast pattern: left male (); right female (20-XI).



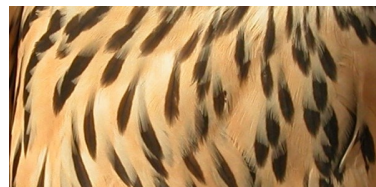
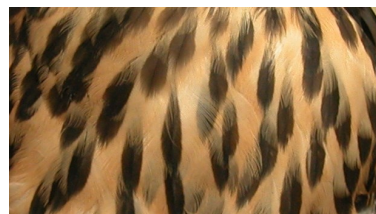
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G o s h a w k .  
Adult. Pattern  
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(06-IV); bottom  
female (12-XII).

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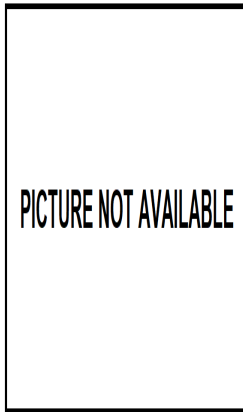


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Juvenile. Pat-  
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**02670 Northern Goshawk** (*Accipiter gentilis*)



Goshawk. Adult. Rump pattern: left male (06-IV); right female (12-XII).



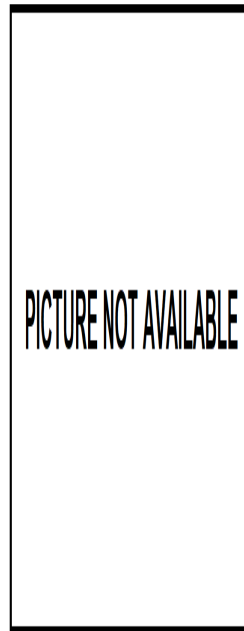
Goshawk. 2nd year autumn. Rump pattern: left male (); right female (20-XI).



Goshawk. Juvenile. Rump pattern: left male (30-VII); right female (06-X).



Goshawk. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (06-IV); right female (12-XII).



Goshawk. 2nd year autumn. Upperparts pattern: left male (); right female (20-XI).

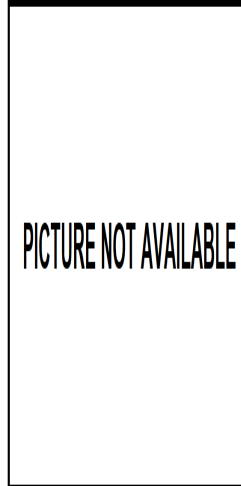




Goshawk. Juvenile. Upperparts pattern: left male (30-VII); right female (06-X).



Goshawk. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (06-IV); right female (12-XII).



Goshawk. 2nd year autumn. Tail pattern: left male (); right female (20-XI).



Goshawk. Juvenile. Tail pattern: left male (30-VII); right female (06-X).



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Adult. Pattern  
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(06-IV); bottom  
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PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE

Goshawk. 2nd year autumn. Pattern of primary coverts: top male (); bottom female (20-XI).



Goshawk. Juvenile. Pattern of primary coverts: top male (30-VII); bottom female (06-X).



Goshawk. Adult. Male: pattern of wing coverts (06-IV).



Goshawk. Adult. Female: pattern of wing coverts (12-XII).

PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE

Goshawk. 2nd year autumn. Male: pattern of wing coverts ().



Goshawk. 2nd year autumn. Female: pattern of wing coverts (20-XI).



Goshawk. Juvenile. Male: pattern of wing coverts (30-VII).





Goshawk. Juvenile. Female: pattern of wing coverts (06-X).



Goshawk. Adult. Male: pattern of primaries (06-IV).



Goshawk. Adult. Female: pattern of primaries (12-XII).

PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE

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Goshawk. 2nd year autumn. Male: pattern of primaries ().





Goshawk. 2nd year autumn. Female: pattern of primaries (20-XI).



Goshawk. Juvenile. Male: pattern of primaries (30-VII).



Goshawk. Juvenile. Female: pattern of primaries (06-X).



Goshawk. Adult. Male: pattern of secondaries (06-IV).





Goshawk. Adult. Female: pattern of secondaries (12-XII).

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Goshawk. 2nd year autumn. Male: pattern of secondaries ().



Goshawk. 2nd year autumn. Female: pattern of secondaries (20-XI).



Goshawk. Juvenile. Male: pattern of secondaries (30-VII).





Goshawk. Juvenile. Female: pattern of secondaries (06-X).



Goshawk. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (06-IV).



Goshawk. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (12-XII).

PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE

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Goshawk. 2nd year autumn. Male: pattern of wing ().



Goshawk. 2nd year autumn. Female: pattern of wing (20-XI).





Goshawk. Juvenile. Male: pattern of wing (30-VII).



Goshawk. Juvenile. Female: pattern of wing (06-X).