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THESIS ABSTRACTS

THE SHARP-SHINNED HAWK (*Accipiter striatus Vieillot*) IN INTERIOR ALASKA

Breeding ecology of the Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) was studied at 19 nests in interior Alaska from 1978 to 1981. Hawks nested in conifers in dense, young stands of mixed deciduous and coniferous trees. Sharp-shins primarily ate small birds, apparently hunted the most productive habitats and captured prey in proportion to availability. Growth and food requirements of 4 captive-reared nestlings were monitored to supplement data on wild young. A typical family required an estimated 13,620 g of prey during the breeding season. In comparison to other studies, Sharp-shinned Hawks in Alaska 1) reoccupied old nest areas more frequently, 2) occupied smaller home ranges, 3) nested in greater densities, 4) completed breeding cycles more quickly, 5) laid more eggs and 6) hatched and fledged more young. Nest future studies, which are important because of the sharp-shin's extensive range and susceptibility to pollution and habitat destruction, Alaskan birds could serve as standards of comparison. — **Clarke, Ronald Gordon. 1984. M.S. Thesis, University of Alaska, College, Alaska.**

CHARACTERIZATION OF NESTING HABITAT OF GOSHAWKS (*Accipiter gentilis*) IN NORTHWESTERN CALIFORNIA

Habitat use of nesting Goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*) was studied during 3 breeding seasons in Six Rivers National Forest, Humboldt and Trinity Counties, California. Habitat characteristics of the nesting areas were examined on 4 levels: community patterns, nest stand, nest site and the nest and nest tree, for 10 nests. Nest stands typically were dense single-storied stands of young Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) with scattered hardwood components and large mature trees and a park-like understory. Locations varied in slope and elevation, but consistently faced northeast. Nest sites typically were small stands of dense mature trees within the nest stands. Tree density and canopy closure were less in nest sites than in the surrounding nest stands. Nests generally were constructed of sticks, were adjacent to the stem, and were below or within the lower quarter of the canopy on the downslope side of a Douglas-fir. Distance to the nearest water source and human disturbance ranged widely. Potentially suitable foraging and alternate nesting areas averaged 41 m and 30 m respectively from the nest tree. — **Hall, Patricia A. 1984. M.S. Thesis, Humboldt State University, Arcata, California.**