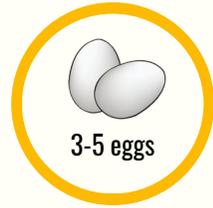
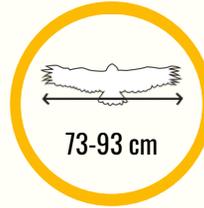




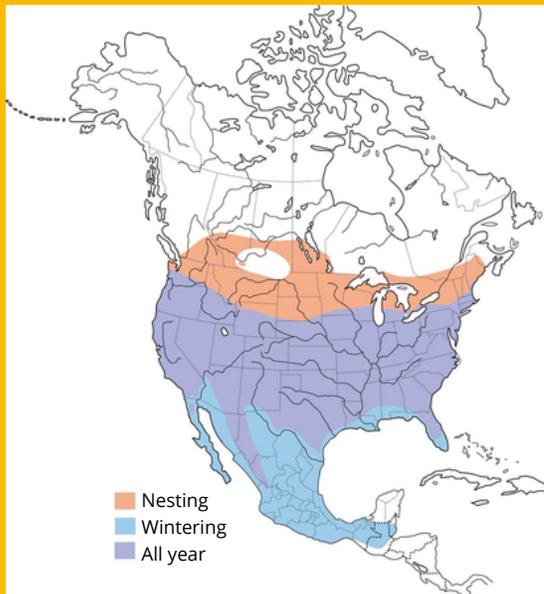
Cooper's Hawk

Épervier de Cooper, *Astur cooperii*



IDENTIFICATION

About the size of a crow, it has a long, slightly rounded tail. Its wings are short and rounded. It has a rufous chest with white stripes and a bluish-grey back. It has a square head which, in flight, extends beyond the "wrists" of the wings. Adults have red eyes, while youngsters have yellow ones. The female is much larger than the male.



ECOLOGY

Nutrition

It feeds almost exclusively on birds, such as mourning doves, blue jays and starlings. It can also capture small mammals, reptiles and amphibians. It usually flies close to the ground, under plant cover, in search of prey.

Breeding

The nest is made of branches and twigs, then lined with bark. Brooding lasts 5 weeks, then the young remain in the nest until their first flight at 30 days for males and 34 days for females.

DISTRIBUTION

It inhabits southern Canadian forests and woodlands, as well as the whole of the United States. It is present year-round, because of its varied diet. It can also be seen near bird feeders.

STATUS AND POPULATION

Its population declined in the 1970s due to the use of pesticides such as DDT. The banning of DDT in Canada has encouraged population growth. Its ability to exploit landscapes modified by man has also helped. Today, the species is considered secure.¹

¹ Wild species of Canada report, 2015