

(POSTER) -- BREEDING SEASON DIET OF NORTHERN GOSHAWKS IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA

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We provided the first systematic description and quantification of the nesting season diet of northern goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*) in southeast Alaska and examined how their diet varied within this coastal temperate rainforest. We collected data on the diet of goshawks from 1992 through 1999 using prey deliveries recorded with remote videography at nests and collections of prey remains and pellets. Goshawks delivered more birds than mammals overall of southeast Alaska but delivered more birds in the Prince of Wales Island area than in other parts of southeast Alaska. In northern southeast Alaska, blue grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*) and red squirrels (*Tamiascurius hudsonicus*) contributed the most to the diet. In southern southeast Alaska, spruce grouse (*Falci pennis canadensis*) and ptarmigan species (*Lagopus* spp.) were the commonly eaten prey. Our data support the supposition that goshawk are generalists predators and show a certain amount of adaptability in their tolerance to variable prey bases. Goshawks in southeast Alaska rely on a few important prey species that are affected by timber harvesting activities. Therefore, management should focus on conserving forests that structurally and functionally mimic those that historically covered this region.



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