

Have You Seen This Bird?

Northern Goshawk



Where To Look:

- Found in remote, higher-elevation forests across northern PA and in mountainous areas southward.
- Primarily in mature mixed and conifer forests with open understory.
- Devoted parents and will dive at or physically attack any perceived threat around their nest, including humans.
- Highly secretive except at nest.

How to Identify a Goshawk:

- Large (bigger than a crow).
- Heavy-bodied.
- Overall slaty grayish above and pale grayish below.
- Distinct whitish eyebrow set off by dark cheek and cap.
- Long, broad, barred tail.
- Fluffy white undertail feathers.
- Note broad wings, often appearing pointed at tips
- Fluffy feathers under tail often noticeable.
- Rarely soar, usually seen below tree canopy.
- Flight is fast and agile, making identification difficult.
- Typically call excitedly near nest area: "kak kak kak..."



How to Identify a Goshawk Nest:

- Usually in fork of tall tree (typically in cherry, maple, birch, pine, or hemlock).
- Usually high in canopy.
- Made of large sticks (many bigger than 1/2" diameter).
- Average 2.5 to 3 ft diameter



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www.pabiologicalsurvey.org/goshawk
email: goshawk@psu.edu