

Autumn Cooper's Hawk migration through northern Utah and northeastern Nevada, 1977-1982

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Abstract

The fall Cooper's Hawk migration was studied at 2 ridgetop observation sites: the Wellsville Mountains in Utah, and the Goshute Mountains in Nevada. Trapping was initiated at the latter site in 1980 and continued through 1982. Observations from 1979 to 1982 in the Goshutes (N = 741 hours) and from 1977-1979 in the Wellsvilles (N = 756 hours) yielded 3,055 (4.1 per hour) and 1,232 (1.6 per hour) Cooper's Hawks, respectively, about 40% of all identified accipiters. At both sites migration activity increased sharply in mid-September, reached a high point during the last 10 days of the month, and dropped off precipitously after 10 October. The age and sex sequence of Cooper's Hawks trapped in the Goshutes corroborated previous findings in Wisconsin, but median dates for each age/sex class averaged 11 days earlier in Nevada. Sixty-one percent of all Cooper's Hawks trapped in the Goshutes were adults, and 57 % were females. Cooper's Hawk migration activity was most conspicuous from 1000 to 1500 hours M.S.T.