

COOPER'S HAWK (ACCIPITER COOPERI)



The Cooper's hawk is a medium-sized hawk, from 14-20 inches (36 - 51 cm) in length. Wingspans range from 20 inches (51 cm) to 28 inches (71 cm). Adults have a grey-blue back, and white undersides with horizontal rufous (reddish-brown) streaks. The head has a dark cap. Tails are long and barred. The outer tail feathers are shorter than the rest of the tail feathers, giving the tail a rounded appearance. Females are similar in appearance to males,

although about 1/3 larger. Immature birds are brownish above, with vertical brown streaks below.

In the San Joaquin Valley, the Cooper's hawk primarily inhabits woodlands along rivers and creeks. It can also be found in more urban areas. It mostly feeds on birds, but will also eat small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.

It is found year-round in Fresno, Madera, Kern, and Tulare counties.

Photo: © Larry Blakely. Calphotos:
seq_num=26925&one=T