

Wild Wednesday 22 July 2020

If any bird in Granite Dells epitomizes “wildness,” it certainly could be the Cooper’s Hawk, which in an earlier essay, I referred to as an “aerial assassin.” <http://www.geolobo.com/?p=211> I encourage you to read that essay if you want to know more about my experiences with this powerful raptor.

Raptors are high in the food web, so they need space and a good prey base. As the City continues to develop its open space portfolio as steps toward a greater Granite Dells Regional Park and Preserve, we can be sure that this fierce and beautiful bird will persist.



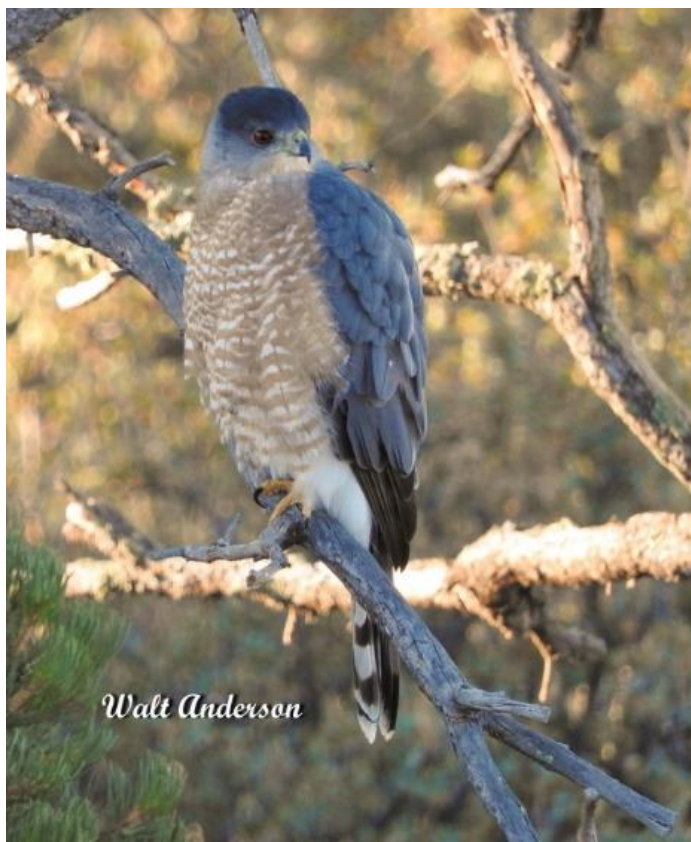
This immature Cooper’s Hawk shows off its beautiful plumage. Young ones call often for their parents to provision them with food, but they soon learn how to hunt effectively on their own.



Notice the bulging crop on this well-fed juvenile.



What a handsome young bird!



Adult Cooper's Hawk in pinyon. Notice how different adult birds are from juveniles.



Look at the talons on this baby!