

# Review

by  
Jamaica Smith & Jack Oar

*Taking: The Gos Wyoming Style*  
By: Tim Neese & Joe Katterhenry

Running time: 55 minutes

Distributed by Western Sporting  
DVD - \$22.95 each

**Jack Oar  
Howe, ID**

This DVD gets right down to business after a brief introduction. It begins with describing the needs for the quest, a permit, GPS, a highlighter and a topographical map. They then describe the type of habitat in which you will be looking for goshawks, how to highlight it on the map, and thereby narrow your search.

Next we see Katterhenry leading the way to check out an old nest area and discussing what he is seeing and what he is looking for as he moves through the forest. Old nests, mutes, feathers, kill sites and butcher blocks should be GPSed, as it may lead to an active nest when plotted on the map. (I may add here that the first waypoint probably should be your car!)

Katterhenry takes us on a very authoritative journey through the forbidding forest, describing the age of mutes as they are located along with other clues as they are encountered. An extensive search ensues. At last, failing to find the goshawk's nest, he concludes that the local redtails must have put them off nesting in this territory

this year. Katterhenry continues with a long list of other concerns, conclusions and reckonings. Before his dissertation can be concluded a goshawk flies through and lands in the background! (With a laugh, I instantly am reminded of a poem that I found in my seventh grade English book. The poem was entitled "The Owl Critic," and I found it to be a hoot (no pun intended).

The troop then returns to the woods and in due time locate the nest after walking within twenty or thirty yards of it on an earlier pass.

Returning to the "topo" with a pencil, they eliminate more than three square miles of fruitless search in looking for another nest. Soon the map is disfigured with a bunch of GPS waypoints marking the locations of nests and sign.

In the next segment the spurs and safety belts come out (as well as helmets). The excitement begins in earnest with goshawks bouncing off austringers left and right. A unique technique of getting an eyas out of a nest in a dead tree is depicted. You will see baby goshawks critiqued, accessed and evaluated (but mostly doted on).

Apparently this area has produced goshawks for many years as the tailpiece of the DVD shows an aspen tree with austringers names and dates carved into it.

If you are looking for an eyas gos you better buy this DVD! And if I should ever endeavor to take an eyas goshawk, I want to go with Tim and Joe!

PS You can find "the Owl Critic" on the internet. Go to "Poet's Corner" under "James T. Fields-Selected Works."

**Jamaica Smith  
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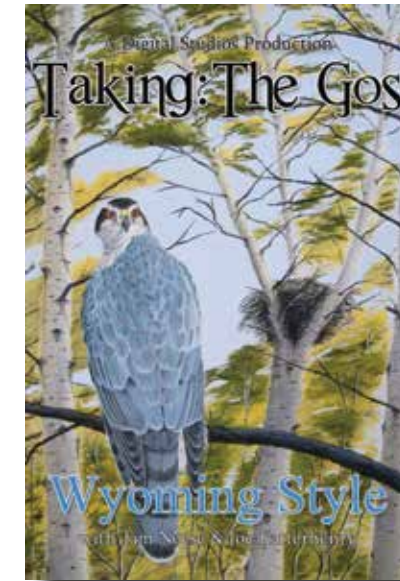
The second DVD in a series of videos on goshawks, *Taking: The Gos, Wyoming Style*, with Tim Neese and Joe Katterhenry, is a valuable resource for those considering taking a northern goshawk from the wild. The fortunate few may have a good friend with goshawk-taking experience willing to walk them through it the first time. The rest of us have Neese and Katterhenry. They are amateurs when it comes to videography; nonetheless, the video is unpretentious and contains valuable information.

Available from Western Sporting for \$22.95, *Taking: The Gos*, is about 55 minutes long. It is not divided into chapters, but basically it covers five topics: locating nests, climbing trees, aging and sexing baby goshawks, parental aggression, and out-takes.

The segment on locating nests is by far the longest. It covers topographical maps (including an explanation of how to use known nest sites to determine likely locations of additional nest territories), quality of habitat, and typical sign. It then takes the viewer on a couple of nest searches. For the purpose of the video, they went to historic sites where they had successfully harvested goshawks in the past. The first search is a fine example of my own experience with gos nest searches; just when you give up on an area that historically contained a nesting pair, something gets your attention and you locate the active nest. Katterhenry was being filmed

as he admitted defeat and listed several possible explanation for the lack of an active nest. He was mid-sentence when he spotted a silent goshawk flying through the trees. The tiercel's appearance renewed their determination, and shortly thereafter they located the active nest.

My husband and I had a similar experience with a high nest and very little encouraging sign near the nest. We searched the ground beneath it for quite a while, but the



female sat so tight we were coming to believe she was not there, and the tiercel never did show up. But when I stumbled across the back half of a squirrel fresh enough to cook for dinner, we knew she was sitting up there. We were just about to leave the area when I found that squirrel.

The next four topics are intermingled, and are rather anecdotal or perhaps intended more for entertainment than instruction. If you do not have some experience with climbing tall trees while being attacked by very aggressive goshawks, this video will give you an idea of how it is done and what it is like. It will not, however, give you proper instruction on climbing equipment and techniques, and clearly was not intended to do so. The same goes for determining the age and sex of your hard won eyas. While the video includes footage of many baby

goshawks accompanied by some discussion as to their sex and age, there are no specific guidelines. The viewer planning to harvest his first eyas goshawk will likely need to seek additional information on these topics. The finale of this segment contains some impressive footage of hard hits by goshawks on climbers. Those considering climbing a tree without experience will think twice after seeing one climber get jacked up by a really intense female. Had he not been secured to the tree he could have suffered a serious fall. Guys, if your wife is a little iffy about your decision to get a goshawk, try to make sure she doesn't watch this video.

The final segment shows the outtakes. I think the very last part is supposed to be the campfire scene from the classic Mel Brooks film *Blazing Saddles*. I think that says enough.

My primary criticism of this video is that it really falls into the realm of an extensive home video rather than a professionally produced film. There was no real attempt at a script, or even much in the way of organized talking points. The people operating the cameras were very rough, such that certain footage gave me motion sickness, or had me leaning to try to improve the perspective. The editing includes footage shot from the wrong side of the tree, so you really can't see anything except a moving shape. In much of the video there are people in the group who were not wearing microphones, so you can hear them talking but can't tell what they are saying.

While a more professional effort might have improved the video, in some ways it does not negate the fact there is quality information here. If you are planning to harvest your first eyas goshawk, I recommend watching this video. My husband and I harvested our first gos about 15 years ago, and we could have used the information this video provides. I feel it is definitely worth the investment if you are in need of some instruction on locating goshawk nests.



# Video