

# *Biathletes leave way for birds of prey*



The goshawks in Hakuba park have forced the Organizing Committee of the XVII Winter Games to find another course for the Olympic biathlon events. In his report to the joint meeting of the Executive Board and the Association of International Winter Sports Federations last December, Mr Makoto

Kobayashi, Director General of NAOC, accompanied by Mr Ogimura and several other members, announced that the site initially approved in Hakuba park would have to be transferred to Nozawa Onsen, north of Nagano, at the request of local environmental protection organizations. The initial course passed through an area where two species of threatened birds of prey - protected under the Washington Treaty on birds - were nesting. "We were

*obliged to change, but travel will not be greatly affected since the distances are practically the same*" said Mr Kobayashi.

Another request by the International Skiing Federation was also approved. In order to avoid the difficulties encountered in Lillehammer, the FIS asked that the women's downhill take place on the same course as the men's, The final plan of site locations will be presented at the IOC Session in Lillehammer.



The NAOC delegation during its report to the Executive Board last December.

