

Janss, G.F.E. and M. Ferrer. 1999. Mitigation of Raptor Electrocutation on Steel Power Poles. Wildlife Society Bulletin 27:263-273.

Abstract: Differences exist in electrocution rates of birds on wooden versus metal power poles. However, mitigation measures effective on wooden power poles have not solved electrocution problems on metal poles. We examined the effectiveness of 12 experimental modifications of metal power poles to prevent electrocution of raptors. We did so by comparing raptors' perching behavior on paired modified and control poles. We tested 8 of these modifications in the field by comparing avian mortality before/after modification. Modifications were less effective when a "perch guard" or "perch" was used than when insulation was used. Small raptors (e.g., tawny owl [*Strix aluco*], Eurasian kestrel [*Falco tinnunculus*]) especially were not adequately protected by non-insulation methods. Differences in perching behavior and possibility of electrocution (i.e., wooden vs. steel power poles) caused differences in effectiveness of modifications. We considered insulation of cross arm braces the most effective and practical modification to reduce electrocution of raptors by metal power poles.