

Lammers, W.M. 2005. The response of avian predators to a new high voltage transmission line in northern Nevada
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Abstract: Construction of the Falcon to Gonder 345 kV transmission line in Nevada was considered a potential threat to greater sage-grouse because avian predators hunt from towers. Study objectives were to measure the response of local avian predator populations to the new line and to determine the effectiveness of perch deterrents installed on the towers at construction. I conducted point transect surveys before (2003) and after (2004) construction, and perching duration observations of avian predators. I also examined prey remains collected from golden eagle nests, and recorded avian predator visits to monitored greater sage-grouse leks. The abundance and distribution of avian predators did not change significantly in response to the new line. The perch deterrents did not obviate the threat that avian predators posed to greater sage-grouse. Although golden eagles preyed upon greater sage-grouse, predation was considered less of a threat than the harassment by avian predators observed at leks.