

among raptors, the three species for which between-brood cannibalism has been recorded (Black Kites, Lesser Kestrels and Montagu's Harrier) are colonial or semicolonial. Between-brood cannibalism might therefore be a cost of nest clumping.

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SCRAP-LUMBER ROOST USED BY BURROWING OWLS (*SPEOTYTO CUNICULARIA*)

Burrowing Owls (*Speotyto cunicularia*) typically use mammal burrows for nesting and roosting. After nesting, they disperse to new areas where suitable roost burrows are available (Haug et al. 1993, *Birds of North America*, No. 61, A. Poole and F. Gill, [Eds.], The American Ornithologists' Union, Philadelphia, PA U.S.A.). The apparent purpose of burrows is for protection from predators and the weather.

As part of a concurrent study of postfledging dispersal in Alberta, Canada, Burrowing Owls were fitted with radio-transmitters south of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada (50°27'N, 104°37'E). On 20 August 1996, one adult female and two juveniles dispersed from their nest burrow to a new location approximately 800 m to the north. Dispersal of this distance involving the whole family is not uncommon (Haug et al. 1993). The instrumented female was tracked to a field, where she flushed from a haphazard pile of scrap lumber roughly circular in shape (about 1.5 m high × 8 m wide). Adjacent to the lumber pile there were several abandoned cars and trucks. The surrounding habitat included a 1 ha hayfield, 4 ha summer fallow field and 64 ha patch of native pasture where the nest burrow had been located.

On five occasions owls were flushed from the interior of the lumber pile and pellets and feces were also found inside. Once flushed, the owls typically flew less than 50 m to nearby fence posts, some of the cars or they landed on the ground. A search of the area indicated there were no other burrows within 150 m and there were neither feces nor pellets within 300 m of the woodpile. All three owls remained at the lumber pile until 20 September.

Despite the fact that Burrowing Owls nest close to people (Thompson 1971, *Condor* 73:177–192), to my knowledge this is the first record in the Great Plains or Intermountain region of Burrowing Owls using an above-ground, man-made roost. These observations suggest that Burrowing Owls are more flexible in their choice of roosting cavities than has been previously thought.

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