The North American breeding distribution of Short-eared Owls ranges from western Alaska east through Canada to Newfoundland, south to central California, and east across the north-central states to New Jersey (Johnsgard 1988) Holt and Leasure (1993) indicate that this species occurs year-round north and west of West Virginia while northern breeding populations are migratory. Our observations and accounts from others suggest that this species may be expanding its range along the southern edge of the previously reported North American breeding range. Several accounts have confirmed Short-eared Owl presence and breeding on coastal grassland habitats in Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina (Iliff 2001, *N. Am. Birds* 55:284–287). Besides West Virginia, Short-eared Owl breeding also has been documented on reclaimed mine sites in Kentucky (Stamm and Clay 1989, *Kentucky Warbler* 65:75–76); however, breeding populations appear to be restricted to a few larger reclaimed areas (Palmer-Ball et al. 1990, *Kentucky Warbler* 66:73–80). This species exhibits some degree of nomadism with fairly long-distance movements by juveniles and adults (Clark 1975, *Wildl. Monogr.* 47:1–67, Cramp 1985, Oxford Univ. Press, Oxford, UK, Mikkola 1983, *Br. Birds* 65:453–460). Such behavior undoubtedly contributes to the ability of Short-eared Owls to find and colonize the newly-created grassland habitats in eastern states, allowing an expansion of the breeding range. This range expansion may be temporary, however, after succession renders these sites unsuitable for Short-eared Owls.—**Frank K. Ammer and Petra Bohall Wood, West Virginia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, BRD/USGS, and Division of Forestry, West Virginia University, P.O. Box 6125, Morgantown, WV 26506 U.S.A.; e-mail address: fammer@wvu.edu**

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ENDANGERED EGYPTIAN VULTURE (*NEOPHRON PERCNOPTERUS*) ENTANGLED IN A POWER LINE GROUND-WIRE STABILIZER

Avian mortality is one of the highest environmental costs of power lines all around the world. Research has widely demonstrated the killing of thousands of birds in some regions, and power-line mortality has contributed to declines in some populations of rare species (see review in Ferrer, M. and G.F.E. Janss 1999, Birds and power lines. Ed Quercus, Madrid). Mortality on power lines is traditionally associated with two types of accidents: electrocution and collision (Janss, G.F.E. 2000, *Biol. Conserv.* 95:353–359). Electrocution occurs when the bird touches two wires or, more frequently, a wire and the grounded metallic pylon; in addition, collisions with overhead wires usually take place when visibility is low (at night or in foggy weather) and species involved are usually flocking birds, such as ducks or gulls (Hass, D. 1980, *Ecol. of Birds* 2:117–157; Avian Power Line Interaction Committee [APLIC] 1996, Suggested practices for raptor protection on power lines: the state of the art 1996, Edison Electric Institute and Raptor Research Foundation, Washington, DC U.S.A.; Ferrer et al. 1991, *J. Field Ornithol.* 62:181–190).

Here we describe a new type of accident in power lines, entanglement in power line ground-wire stabilizer. This has been suggested before: see Olendorff et al. 1981, Suggested practices for raptor protection on power lines: the state of the art 1981, *J. Raptor Res. Rep.* 4:1–111. We observed this type of entanglement in a 66 kw transmission line, property of Empresa Nacional de Electricidad, Sociedad Anónima (ENDESA), crossing the island of Fuerteventura (Canary archipelago, Spain). On 10 November 2000, at dusk, we found a subadult Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) with its right talon hooked up on a ground-wire stabilizer placed on one side of the power pole (Fig. 1) This individual probably perched on the stabilizer, as it is frequently observed among roosting individuals (see below) It could have caught its right talon in the lower hook-shaped structure, preventing escape. We rescued the bird the next morning; it was exhausted but still alive. Its ankle joint was seriously damaged. Consequently, it was necessary to amputate its talon. The bird was a 3-yr-old female. It had been captured using a cannon net in September 2000 as part of a population monitoring research program. The metallic ring on its right tarsus probably exacerbated the damage, as it hung from the stabilizer.

Egyptian Vultures in Fuerteventura usually roost along the 30 km on this power line year round; up to 125 individuals have been observed at one time with a maximum of 13 birds/pylon; ca. 96% of the total population on the island (Donázar et al. 2002, *Biol. Conserv.* 107:89–97). Electrocutions and collisions have been reported on the island, affecting Egyptian Vultures and other endemic and endangered avian species (Lorenzo, J.A. 1995, *Ecología* 9:403–

Figure. 1. The immature female Egyptian Vulture entangled in the stabilizer.

407; Lorenzo et al. 1997, *Vieraea* 26:1–10). Hooking in stabilizers was never observed before, although vultures often roost in these structures (36.9% of the individuals roosting in pylons perch on stabilizers, $N = 384$, unpubl. data). It cannot be discarded, however, that some injured birds may escape after entangling. In fact, during 2001 we have observed four free-ranging individuals with fractured legs; another bird was missing a leg. Survival probabilities of these individuals would be consequently reduced. As the use of leg paddle traps is unknown on the island it seems reasonable to examine the role that entanglement may have in the occurrence of leg injuries. Finally, the Canarian population of this species is endemic to the archipelago (*N. p. majorensis*; Donázar, et al. 2002, *J. Raptor Res.* 36:17–23) and is extremely endangered (26 breeding pairs in 2001, Donázar et al. 2002). Casualties on power lines has caused the mortality of 14% of the extant Canarian Egyptian Vultures (16 cases of electrocution, 1 case of collision, and 1 case of entanglement) and represent an important risk to this population. This problem should also be considered in the design of power lines potentially used by large roosting birds in other regions of the world.

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BARRED FOREST-FALCON (*MICRASTUR RUFICOLLIS*) PREDATION ON A HUMMINGBIRD

Hummingbirds are widely regarded as having few predators away from the nest. However, incidental attacks upon hummingbirds by a number of bird species have been reported and may exert at least a moderate selective pressure. Wright (1962, *Auk* 79:112) reported a Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) killing a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Ar-*