

**KB Study
Preliminary Report
October 02, 2007**

During the month of September 2007 the KB team found 13 fatalities of the three target species: seven Burrowing Owls, three American Kestrels, and three Western Meadowlarks. Only two of these fatalities (one BUOW and one AM KE) were fresh and complete carcasses. All others were older, partial carcasses or feather spots. We followed up on all of these fatalities every 48 hours. Additionally, we found four fresh and complete carcasses of various species (Rock Pigeon, Orange-Crowned Warbler, Townsends Warbler, and a bat), as well as one older, partial Peregrine Falcon carcass, all of which were tracked over time as well.

All fresh carcasses were scavenged upon. Their bodies could no longer be found in the vicinity of their original position after two to ten days. In some cases feather trails remain. The TOWA completely disappeared after two days. The body of the AM KE disappeared after two days; some feathers remain in the field. The bodies of the BUOW and ROPI remained untouched for two days and then were gone two days later; in both cases feather trails remain. The bat was partially eaten after two days; its wings, legs, and fur disintegrated gradually in the following six days. The OCWA remained untouched for eight days, no trace of it could be found 48 hours later.

Five of the target species fatalities consist of bones and feathers. These fatalities remain mostly unchanged since they were found. The PEFA carcass, found on September 11, consisted of bone, dried flesh, and feathers. Scavengers have manipulated the carcass. Most of the flesh is gone, but bones and feathers remain in the field.

Six of the target species fatalities are feather spots. We find that most of these feather spots do not change much over time. The feathers weather slowly and are seldom blown away by the wind. The rainstorm on September 22 washed away some body feathers or covered them with soil, but most flight feathers remain in place.