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## ABSTRACTS OF THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

### ARTIFICIAL PERCH USE BY RAPTORS ON RECLAIMED SURFACE MINES IN WEST VIRGINIA

Raptor use of 24 artificial perches on 4 reclaimed surface mines in West Virginia was studied from May to October, 1980. Each perch had crosspieces at heights of 3 and 6 m. Perch use was documented by direct observations and use of 24 automatic event recorders. More than 99% of total use by raptors was made by American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*.) Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and, as indicated by the event recorders, possibly Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*) made relatively small use of the perches. The 6-m crosspieces were used substantially more than the lower heights and this choice was independent of topography. Relationships among perch use, prey abundance, and vegetational structure were evaluated and, based on these variables, models were generated to predict perch use by the 3 raptor species. Vegetational structure appeared to be important in determining perch use by all 3 species but use by kestrels may be determined more by insect prey.

Forren, John D. 1981. Artificial perch use by raptors on reclaimed surface mines in West Virginia. M.S. Thesis, West Virginia University, Morgantown. 199 pp.

### KESTREL USE OF NEST BOXES ON RECLAIMED SURFACE MINES IN WEST VIRGINIA AND PENNSYLVANIA

Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) use of mines with boxes (treatment) and without boxes (control) was studied in a 4-county area in northern West Virginia and southern Pennsylvania during March to August of 1980 and 1981. Kestrels did not nest on nor was any breeding activity observed at 6 control mines during either year of the study. In contrast, Kestrels accepted 14 of