

### 13. AVIAN MORTALITY AT COMMUNICATION TOWERS IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA

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Millions of birds are killed each year in North America in collisions with communication towers. The actual extent, rate, and composition of this mortality have never been assessed in Southeast Alaska. My goal was to document and quantify avian mortality at communications towers at 2 locations near Sitka in Southeast Alaska. The Biorka Island site has four communication towers while the Sitka Airport site has three communication towers. Between these sites there are significant differences in tower height, configuration, and lighting. I determined avian mortality through regular visits to both sites, especially during spring and fall migration. During each visit, I identified, counted, and cleared carcasses from beneath all towers. To date, the repeated sampling has led me to refine my methodology and brought important factors such as carcass scavenging into consideration.



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