

## Colorado Parks and Wildlife Burrowing Owl Nest Burrow Photos

In order to assist with the identification of burrowing owl nest burrows, CPW includes these example photos with varying amounts of evidence at the burrow entrance, from very obvious to very subtle. Not all nest burrows are easy to identify. Early in the season, there may be few torn-up dung or prey remains to observe. Burrowing owls usually add as they go so nest burrows are generally pretty easy to identify in late May/early June, but individual owls vary. However, later in the breeding season, once the owlets are old enough to spread into satellite burrows, the adults stop "maintaining" their messy nest entrance materials and may be consuming prey elsewhere (e.g. at perch locations). Also, after a hard rain, most of this evidence may be washed down into the burrow or off the edges.



Example burrowing owl nest with obvious sign of feathers, dung, and prey remains. Also, note feathers and dung lining the burrow entrance. (Photo Credit: Reesa Conrey, CPW)



Example burrowing owl nest with limited amount of feathers and dung at entrance to the burrow. (Photo Credit: Reesa Conrey, CPW)



Example burrowing owl nest that has little obvious evidence of feathers and dung at burrow. Whitewash is evident. (Photo Credit: Reesa Conrey, CPW)