either a control or a recovery from any site removed from the ringing area. At Koeberg, I have made 66 retraps involving 58 individual birds and in each case the retrap has been made with nets set in the same positions as at the time the bird was ringed. In addition, the buntings have been retrapped over a period of three breeding seasons (Table 2). Although they migrate from the Reserve in winter, they return to the same place each summer. A number of the birds have been retrapped in more than one subsequent season which also suggests that site loyalty is a feature of this species.

Table 2. Retrap analysis of Cape Bunting *Emberiza capensis* by breeding season.

Totals	Season retrapped after ringing			
58 birds	Same	1st	2nd	3rd
66 retraps	13	37	12	4

The questions now arising are: what makes the Reserve attractive to the birds in summer? Why do they leave in April and, most intriguing, where do they go?

LESS THAN ONE IN A MILLION: NOCTURNAL BAL-CHATRI STATISTICS, OR ... MURPHY IN EENDEKUIL

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We have made it a routine to end a day of bal-chatri raptor ringing by also including an eagle owl (or two). Ingredients for this are a quiet road with plenty of utility poles and, of course ... an owl (or two).

Returning from Namaqualand on 17 August 1997, we reached the R365 between Eendekuil and Piketberg right at dusk. In addition, the full moon made checking the poles on the east side of the road very easy. In 80 minutes, we crossed or were overtaken by only six cars, further adding to the picture that conditions were absolutely ideal; except ... there were no owls!

Eventually, we found one – and the trap was dropped in the opposite verge because of the fairly tall grass. This is not recommended practice as the bird then has to cross the traffic (if there is any), but as the road was absolutely quiet, the risk seemed acceptable.

Over the next 38 minutes, 23 cars passed, including what seemed to be the heaviest truck at the most crazy speed the Eendekuil Road could ever carry (although this might be an overstatement in Africa!). Furthermore, this traffic rush did not come as a long procession, but instead the cars were incredibly nicely spaced at just less than two-minute intervals – just enough to chase the bird off when it had decided to give it another try.

Statistics tell us that such an event of traffic contrast (leaving out the aspect of spacing interval) has a chance of occurrence of less than one in a million (which is, of course, a far rarer instance than any we would attempt to verify by spending nights along the Eendekuil Road in order to test the value of statistics ... or to catch owls for that matter). In practice, however, it takes just one evening, *i.e.* the 17 August.

The owl was eventually caught after 40 minutes, in his ninth attempt, during an unusual traffic lull, which lasted just over three minutes. With a little misfortune, he could have been flattened 23 times by that time.