

CHANGE IN THE REPORTING LOCALITY OF THE CAPE VULTURES
RINGED IN THE TRANSVAAL IN THE PERIOD 1953 - 1975

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An analysis of 115 recoveries of the Cape Vultures ringed in the Transvaal shows that there has been a decline in the number recovered in the Cape Province. The recoveries of vultures according to the year that they were ringed and number recovered in the Cape are shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1
 RECOVERIES OF CAPE VULTURES RINGED IN THE TRANSVAAL
 BY YEAR OF RINGING AND REGION OF RECOVERY

Year Ringed	Number recovered		% recoveries in the Cape	95% confidence limits
	in Cape Province	Overall		
1953	1	3	33	1 - 91
1954	2	4	50	7 - 93
1955	1	5	20	1 - 72
1956	2	3	67	9 - 99
1957	3	5	60	15 - 95
1958	0	2	0	0 - 84
1959	2	4	50	7 - 93
1960	2	6	33	4 - 78
1961	1	2	50	1 - 99
1962	2	3	67	9 - 99
1963	0	0	0	-
1964	1	3	33	1 - 91
1965	0	4	0	0 - 60
1966	1	8	13	0 - 53
1967	0	4	0	0 - 60
1968	2	3	67	9 - 99
1969	0	3	0	0 - 71

1970	0	2	0	0 - 84
1971	1	4	25	1 - 81
1972	0	3	0	0 - 71
1973	2	8	25	3 - 65
1974	2	13	15	1 - 45
1975	1	23	4	0 - 22

Note the Cape Province is taken as the area south of latitude 29S.

Although the percentage of the recoveries that are found in the Cape varies between 0 and 67%, there is no significant difference between years as the sample size each year is small. However by grouping the recoveries by decades shows significant trends.

TABLE 2

SUMMARY OF RECOVERIES OF CAPE VULTURES RINGED IN THE TRANSVAAL
BY DECADES AND REGION OF RECOVERY

Decade	Recoveries		% recoveries in the Cape	95% confidence limits
	in the Cape	Overall		
1950's	11	26	42	23 - 63
1960's	9	36	25	12 - 42
1970's	6	53	11	4 - 23
1953 - 1964	17	40	42	27 - 59
1965 - 1975	9	75	12	6 - 22
1965 - 1972	4	31	13	3 - 30
1973 - 1975	5	44	11	4 - 25

In the 1950's 42% of the 26 recoveries were reported from the Cape. This proportion decreased to 25% in the 1960's and to 11% in the 1970's. The difference between the 1950's and 1970's is significant at the 95% level.

Similarly if the records are divided into only two periods, before 1965 and after 1964, the differences are also significant. As it was possible that increased effort to obtain recoveries

from 1973 onwards may have biased the sample the records for the period 1965 to 1975 were divided and compared. There was no difference between the recoveries of 1965 - 1972 and 1973 - 1975. Thus the increased searching did not apparently affect the shift in reporting locality.

Assuming that the shift in reporting locality is real then it may have resulted because the vultures gradually decreased their rate of dispersal to the Cape or recoveries of vultures in the Cape were not reported. There has been a decline of the Cape Vulture populations in the Cape in the 1970's but the causal factors are not known. Two possibilities, decreased food availability and persecution, could both speed the decline and shift the recovery locality. The dispersive vultures from the Transvaal may have gone elsewhere to better food supplies and/or they may have been poisoned by Cape farmers and not reported.

AN INTERESTING RECOVERY

R144 Lizzard Buzzard Kaupifalco monogrammicus

Mrs D. Hall reported the recovery of a Lizzard Buzzard, ring no. 635-03857, on her farm Boschrand near Mataffin, Eastern Transvaal. The details are:

Ringed at Mataffin 25°27'S 30°56'E on 6.7.69. Adult male.

Ringer: Clive Hunter.

Recovered at Boschrand Farm, Mataffin 25°27'S 30°57'E on 20.2.78. Found dead.

102 months elapsed between ringing and recovery. The previous longevity record in South Africa was 40 months.