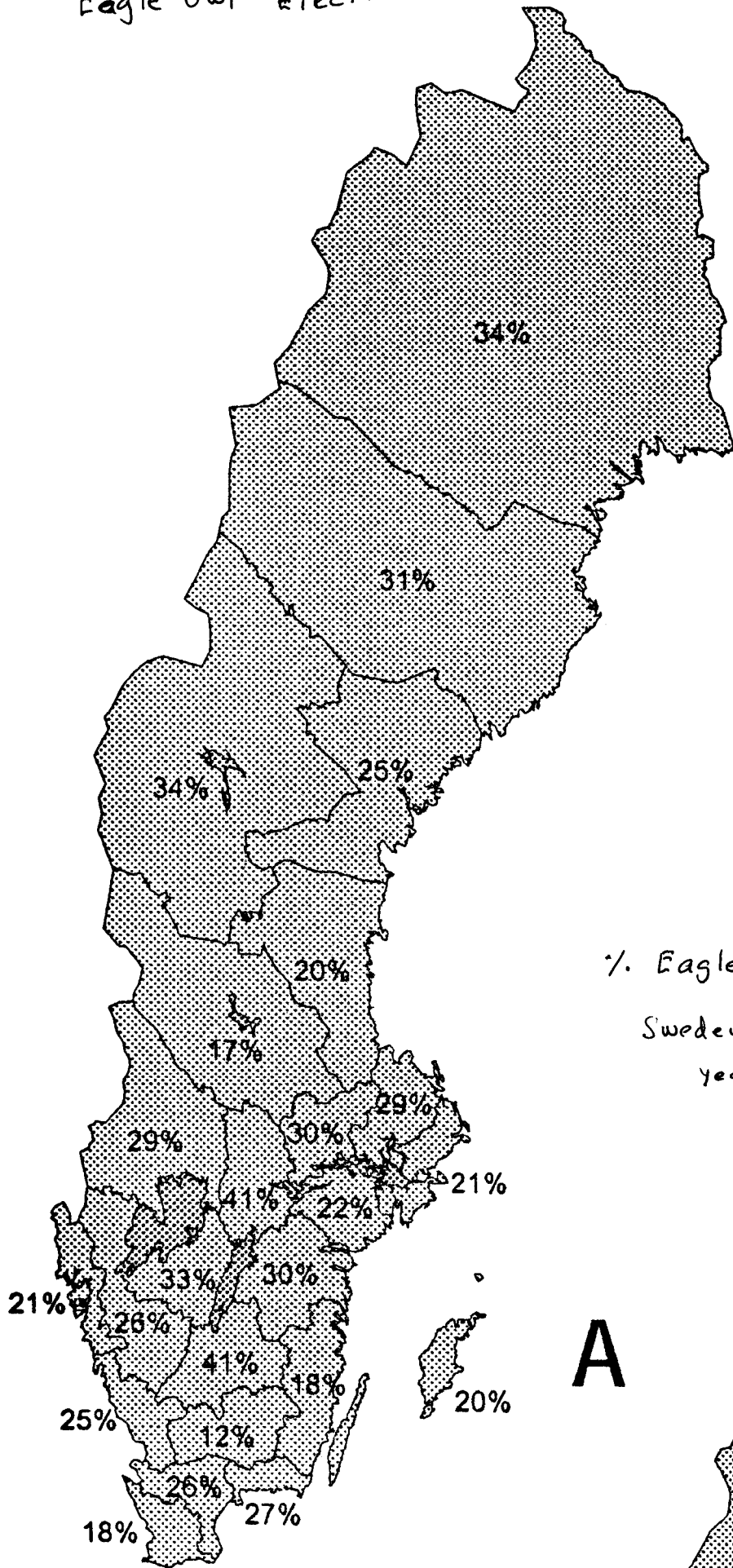


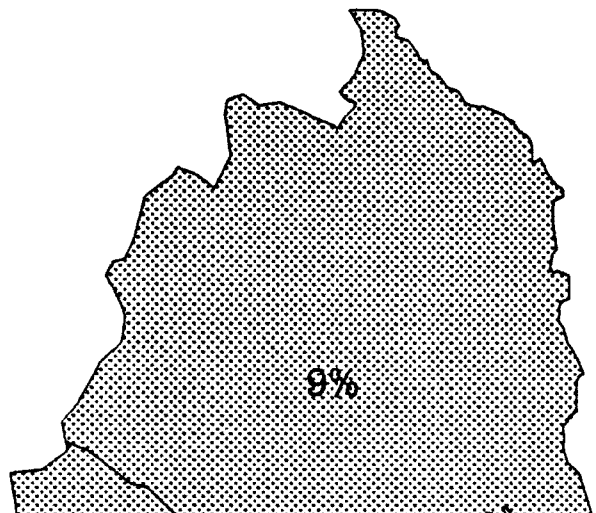
Eagle Owl Electrocuted %



Figur 5. Andelen återfynd som  
eller elström av berggöv i olika li

% Eagle Owls Electrocuted  
Sweden (collected 1,731 spec)  
year 2000

A



B

Summary

ELECTROCUTION - THE GREATEST THREAT TO THE EAGLE OWL POPULATION IN SOUTHEAST NORWAY ?

Recently, it has been suggested that power lines may pose a serious threat to the Eagle Owl population in southeast Norway. Eagle Owls are thought to fly against the power lines and be electrocuted. By intensively radio-tracking 27 juvenile Eagle Owls released from captivity in SE Norway during 1986-87, we were able to accurately determine the causes of mortality.

Eagle Owls that were electrocuted did not hit power lines, but rather perched on the crossarm of the poles and on transformers.

Of the 22 radio-tagged Eagle Owls that died during the study, 12 (55%) were electrocuted by perching on the crossarm of the poles or on transformers. From analyses of the ringing recoveries of released birds in the same area, at least 57 % (n=87) were found to be electrocuted. Of identified causes of mortality, electrocution made up 75 % (n=67).

At one of the two release sites, 25 of the most dangerous poles were experimentally insulated in 1987. In 1986, before insulation, 4 of 10 birds (40 %) died of electrocution within 1,6 km from the release site. In 1987, after insulation, only 1 of 8 birds (12%) died of electrocution in the same area. At the other release site, nearly lacking poles, no owls were electrocuted in the nearly surroundings, but 5 of 9 (55 %) were electrocuted during dispersal or after having established a home range.

The results suggest that the life expectancy of Eagle Owls will increase if the wires near the poles are insulated, or if the birds are released in areas free of power lines and poles. However, many owls die because of electrocution later during dispersal.

We observed that some Eagle Owls were able to j ch-hunt from

high-voltage poles without being electrocuted. However, ringing recoveries suggest that electrocution is hazardous to both juvenile and adult Eagle Owls.

To avoid the threat of electrocution, all power lines near poles and all transformers should be insulated, but this will be expensive. The first step should be to insulate power lines and transformers near Eagle Owl release sites and established pairs.

Forfatternes adresser:

Runar S. Larsen

Univ. i Oslo

Biol. inst., Avd. for zoologi

Høks 1050 - Blindern

N-0316 Oslo 3

Ole H. Stensrud

Isebakke

N-1760 Berg st.

### Dödsorsaker 1946-1971

