

Assessing Mitigation Translocation as a Tool to Reduce Human-Great Horned Owl Conflicts



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Mitigation Translocation



Research Objective

**Determine factors that influence GHOW
return rate after a mitigation translocation**

Factors included:

- Age of bird (when translocated)
- Translocation distance
- Month (of translocation)



Methods

- **Sept. 2013 – March 2023**
- **13 civilian airports & 3 military bases**
- **Live-captured, banded & ‘moved’ GHOW**
- **Translocated the birds different distances
(25, 50, 75 or 100 miles)**



Methods (con't)



- **Defined ‘Airport Return’**
- **Logistic regression models compared with AIC**
- **Calculated ‘Days to Return’**

Results – Return Rates

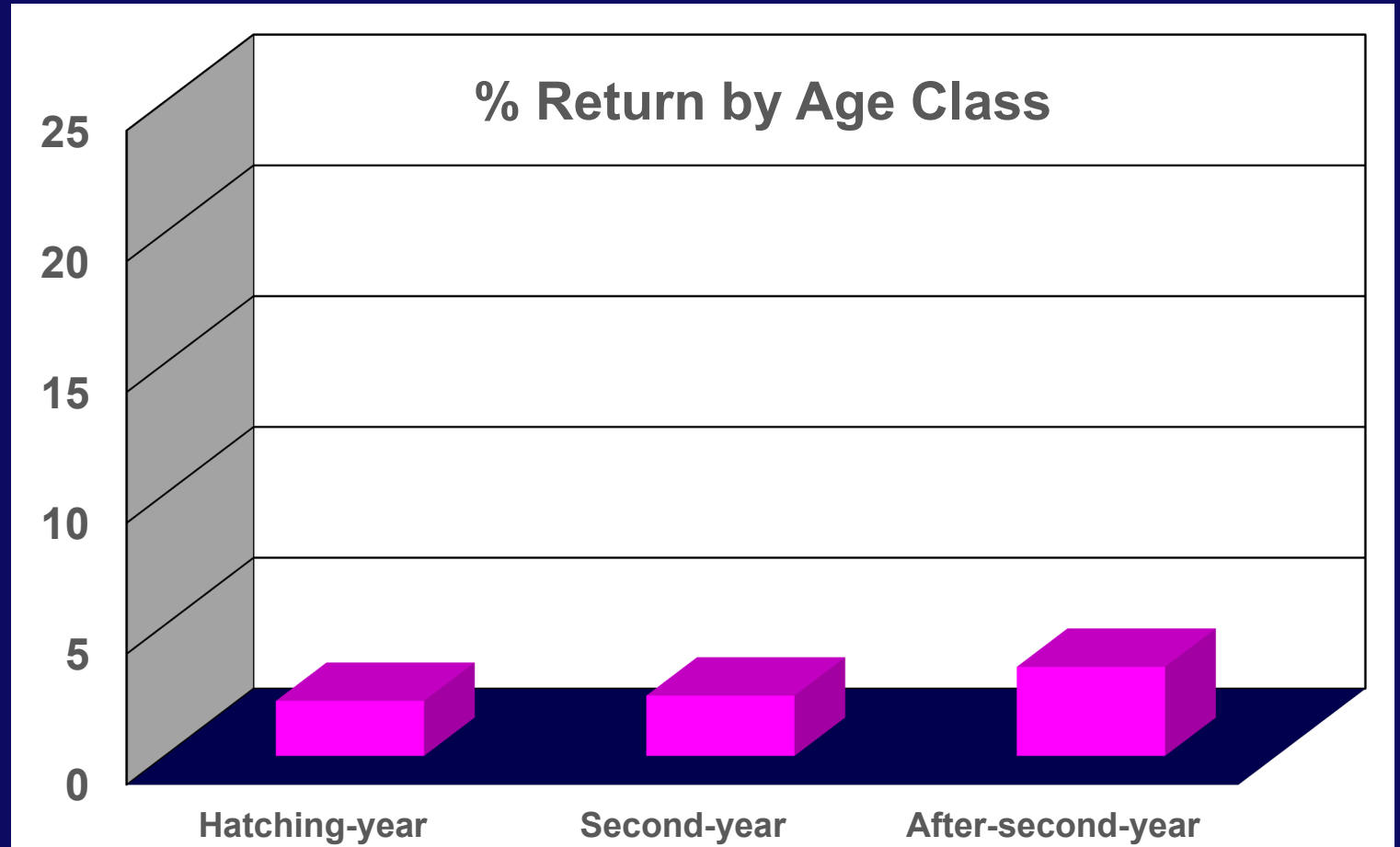
- 1,020 mitigation translocations;
27 returns
- 2.6% return rate



Best Fit Model

- **Model variables**

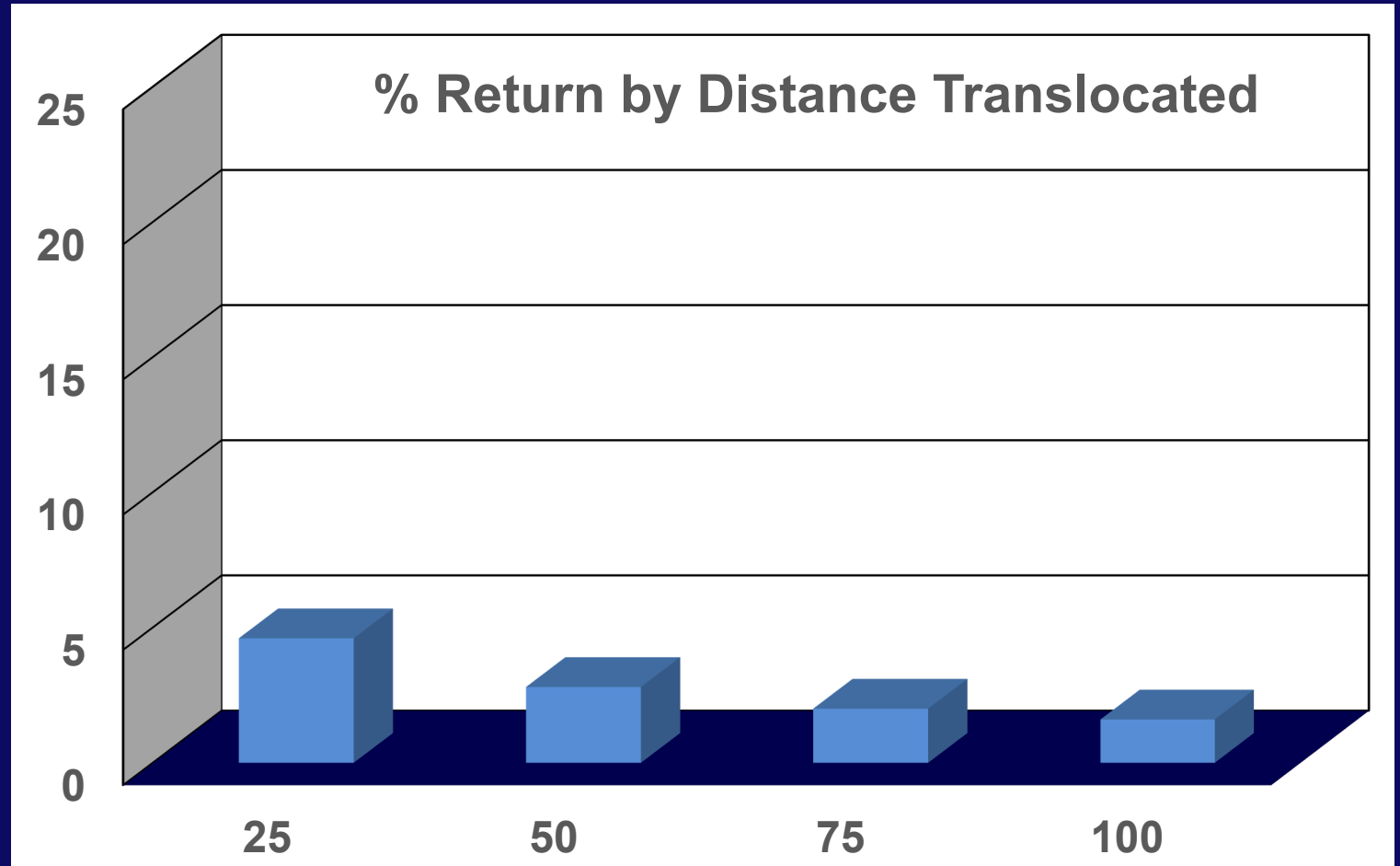
- **Age (A)**
- **Distance (D)**
- **Trip # (T)**



Best Fit Model

- **Model variables**

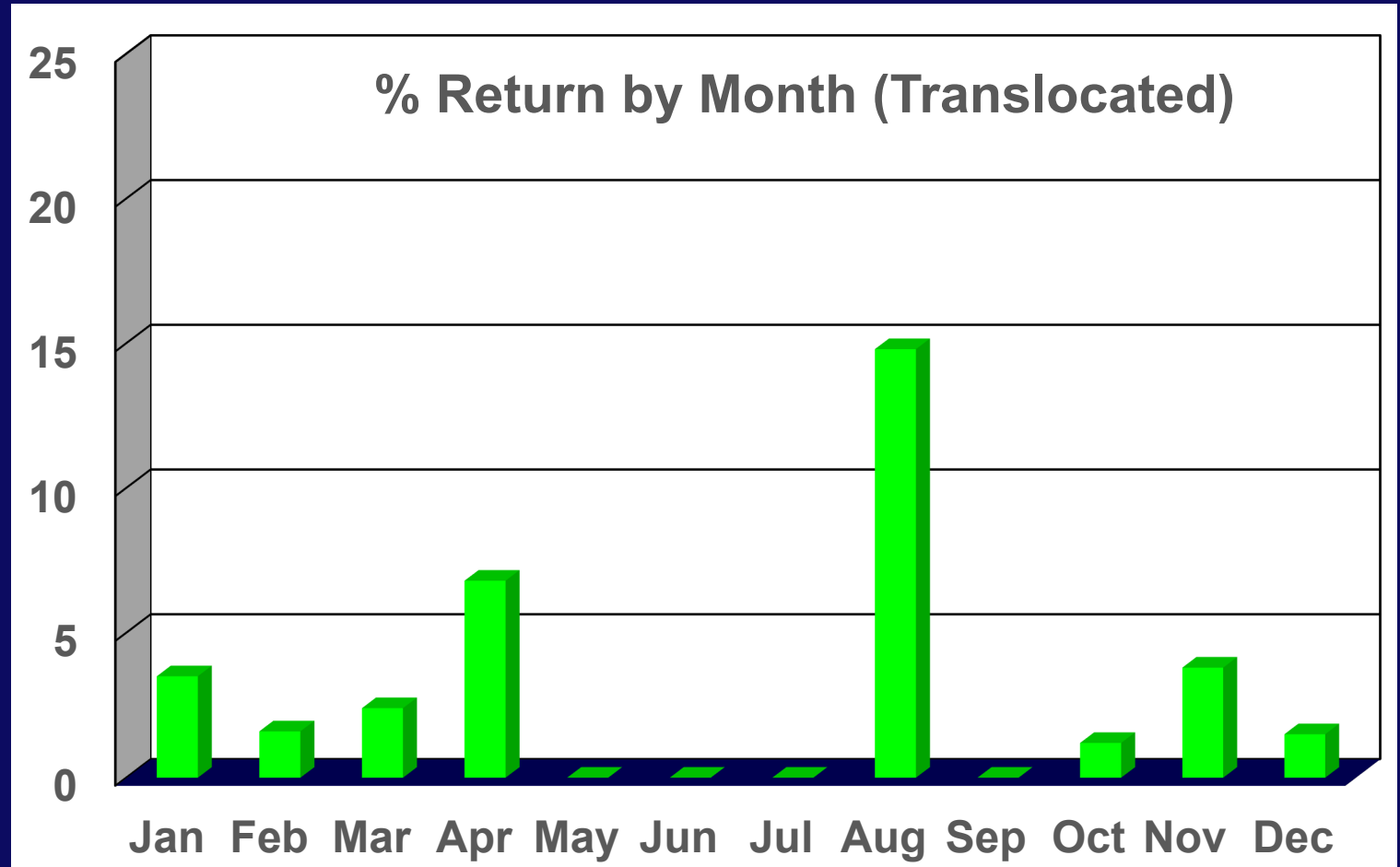
- Age (A)
- Distance (D)
- Trip # (T)

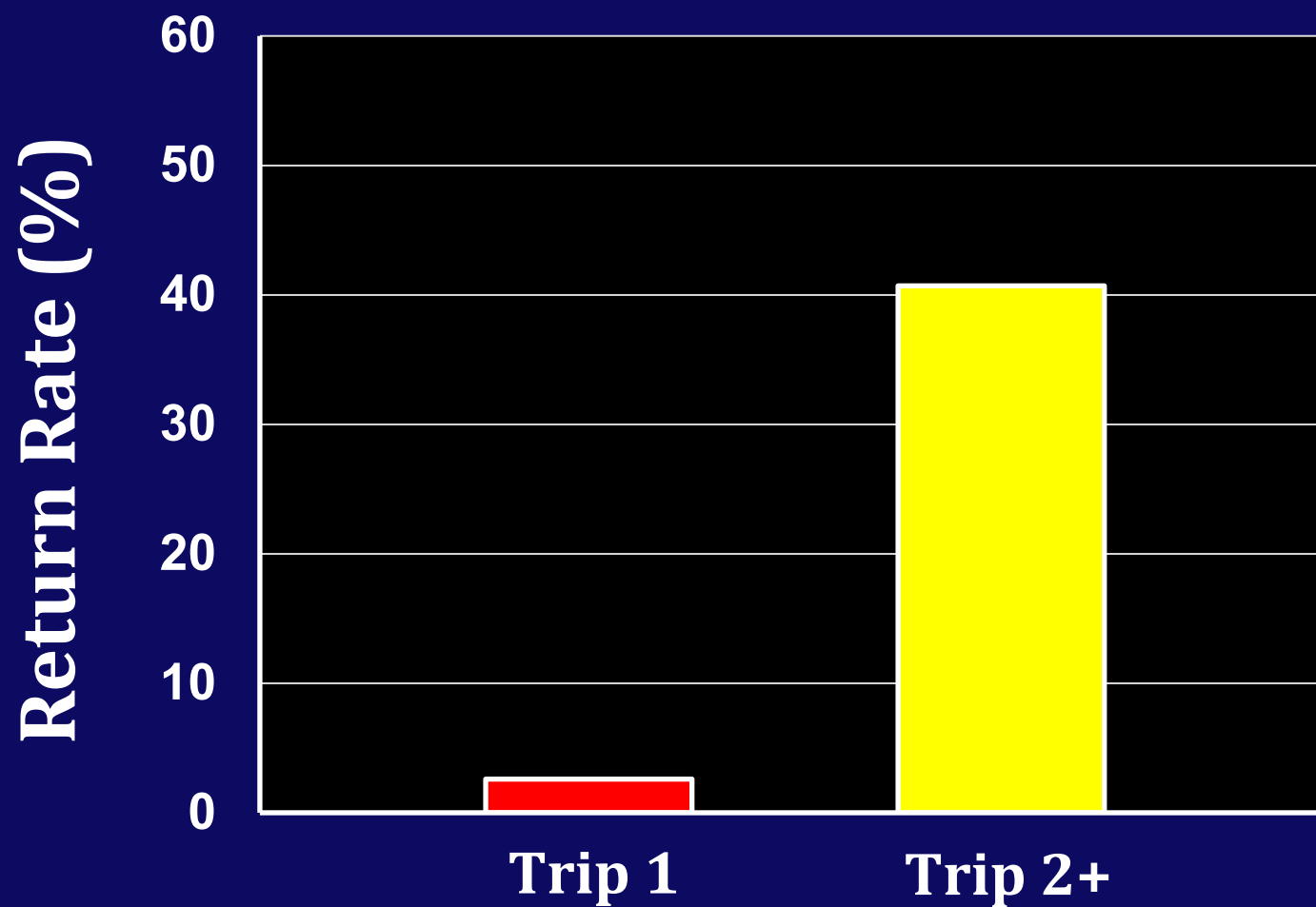


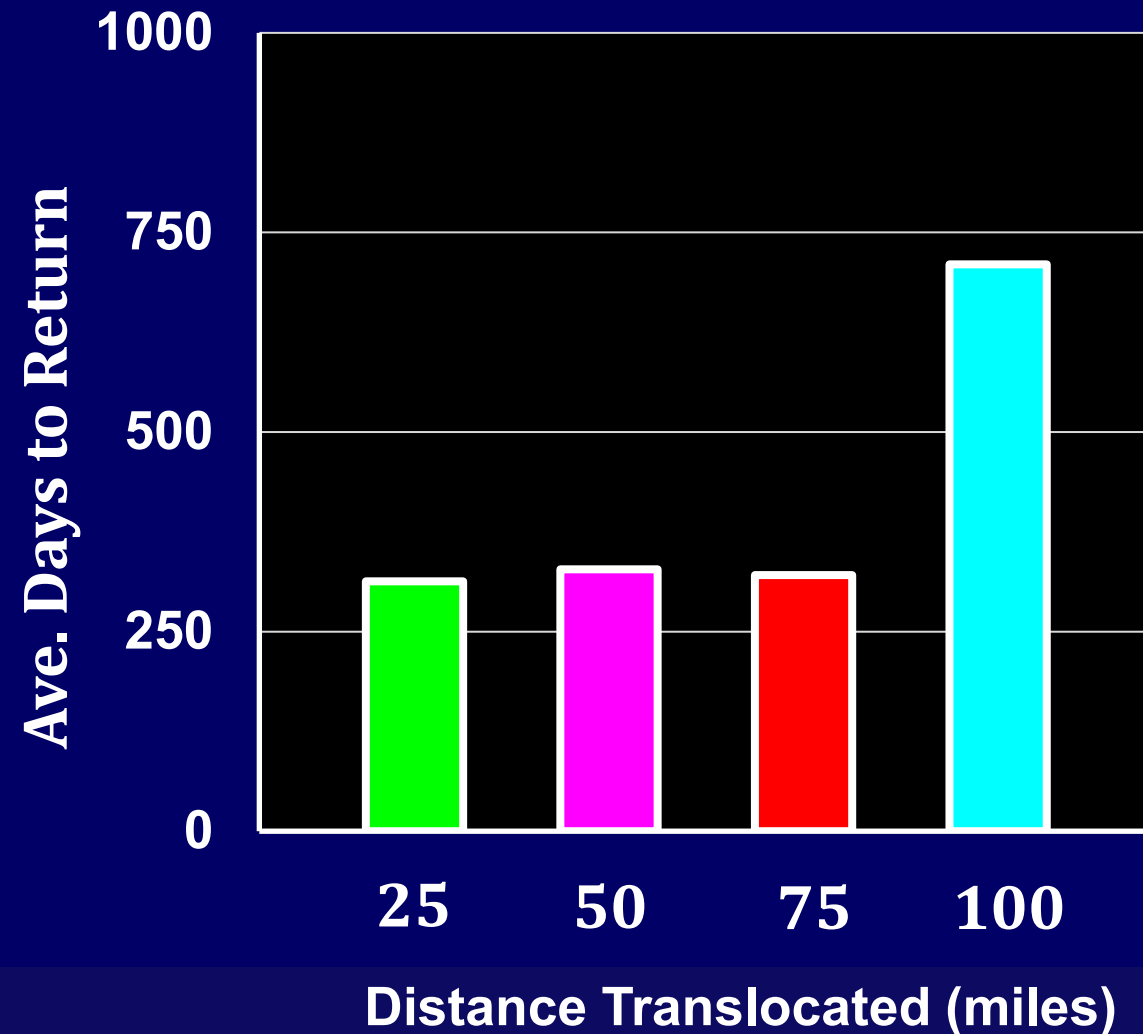
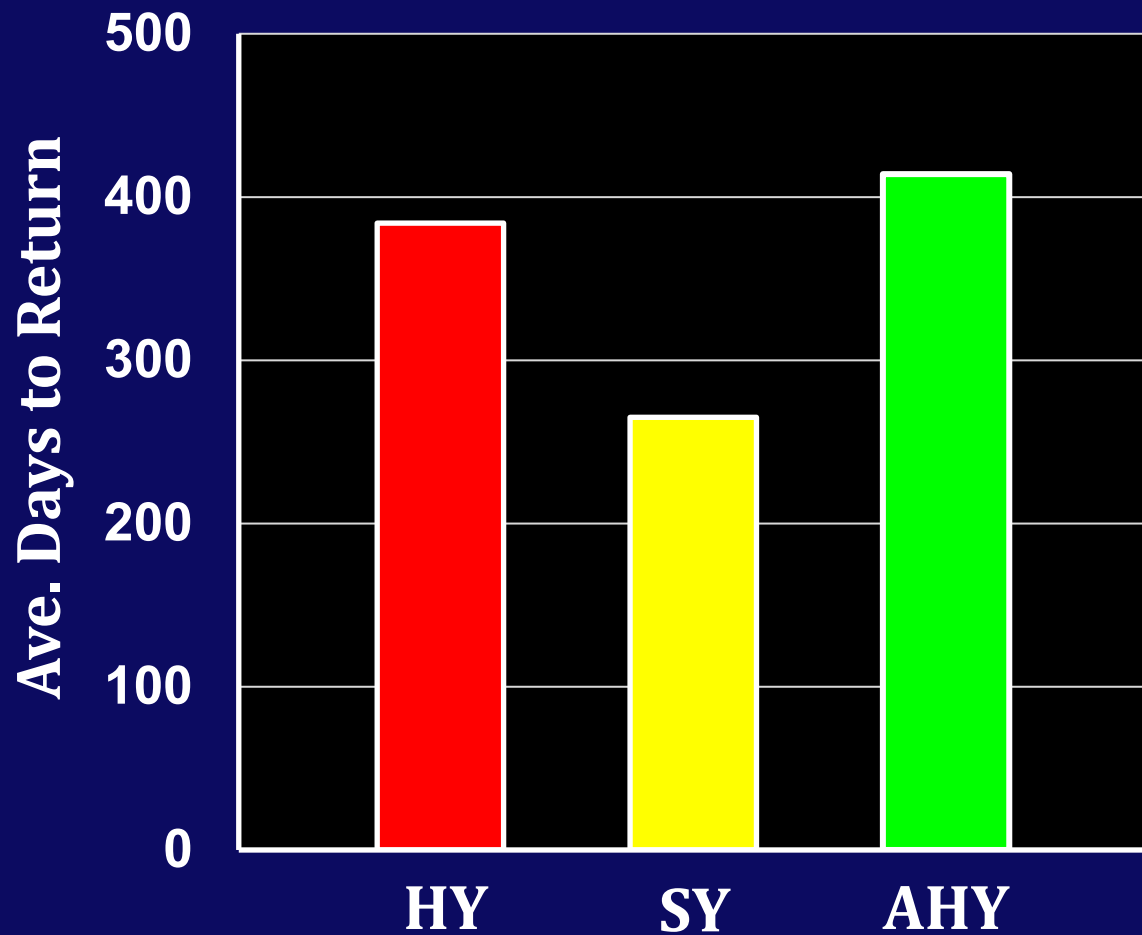
Best Fit Model

- **Model variables**

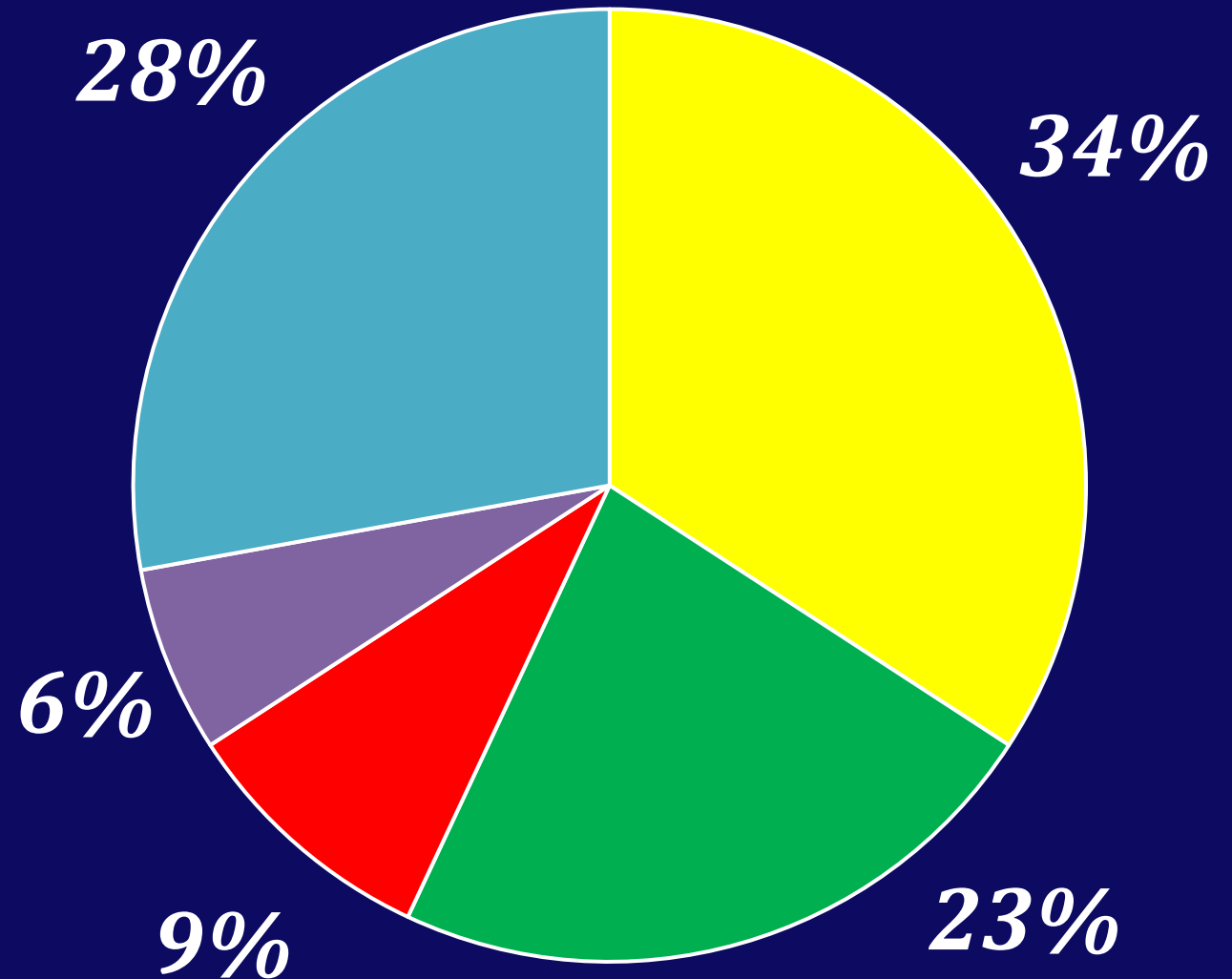
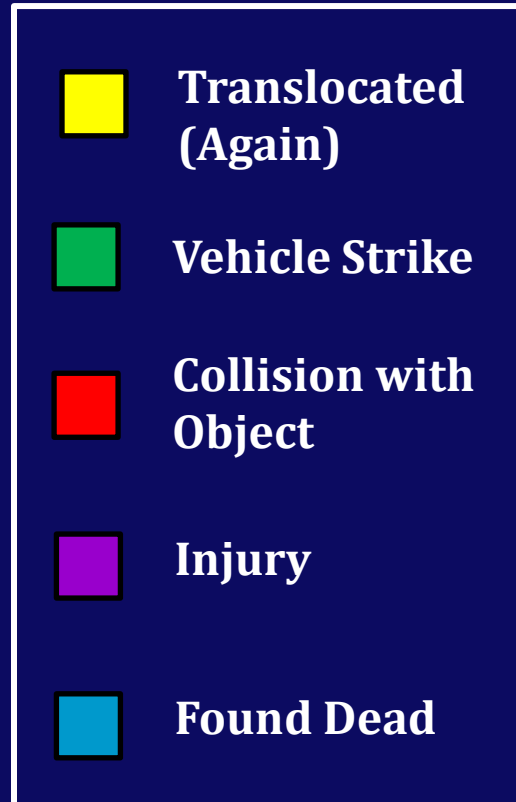
- Age (A)
- Distance (D)
- **Month (T)**







Fate of Owls



Management Recommendations

- **Translocate all GHOW *once* to a distance of 25 miles**
- **Lethally remove returning birds**
- **Habitat and/or prey-base management**

Take Home Thoughts....

- What is “success”?
- Multiple factors influence management decisions
- Integrated damage management approach
- *Science-based* management methods,
but should be sensitive to human needs

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