Fig. 1. Study area and capture sites in south-west Victoria, Australia, showing non-breeding capture locations (triangles) and breeding capture locations (circles). Inset shows distribution of brolgas in Australia and the rectangle depicts the area of the current study.
Fig. 2. Construction of Australian noose traps for brolgas. Make a loop at each end of the nylon fishing line and tie a knot (1) (after Cooper et al. 1995) (A and B). The bottom loop (2) should be 30 mm, the top loop (3) no more than 15 mm, in diameter. Thread top loop (3) through bottom loop (2) over the main anchor line (4) (C and D). Repeat (C and D), so the bottom loop (2) is threaded around the anchor line (4) twice (E). Thread the nylon line through top loop (3) and pull down to the anchor line (4) to create a noose (5). Place dirt at the base of bottom loop (2) and over the anchor line (4) to stand the noose (5) at 45° - 90° angle to the ground (F).
Fig. 3. Australian noose trap set up (A) – three parallel lines and three zigzag lines laid across parallel lines. Ends of noose lines (1, 3) are pegged down with two heavy-duty pegs. Lines should have elastic rope at each end (2, 3) to avoid injuries. Taxidermy decoys (4) are set up in the middle to maximise chances of brolgas crossing lines and getting caught in a noose.

Taxidermy decoys in a brolga feeding field (B).
Fig. 4. Number of brolgas captured per day using nooses only; with nooses and bait; nooses and playback; nooses, bait and taxidermy decoys; nooses, call playback and taxidermy decoys; and nooses, call playback, taxidermy decoys and bait. Numbers above bars depict number of days each method was employed. The first time we employed call playback was without taxidermy decoys and we successfully captured a brolga. For all subsequent attempts we always used both call playback and taxidermy decoys.
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Title: Assessing capture and tagging methods for brolgas, Antigone rubicunda (Gruidae)

Date: 2015-09-01

Citation: Veltheim, I; Chavez-Ramirez, F; Hill, R; Cook, S, Assessing capture and tagging methods for brolgas, Antigone rubicunda (Gruidae), WILDLIFE RESEARCH, 2015, 42 (5), pp. 373 - 381

Persistent Link: http://hdl.handle.net/11343/217232

File Description: Supplementary files