

Bird monitoring

Acoustic recorders and data interpretation

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Number 1: Objectives!!

- Baseline/inventory
- Monitoring (changes over time)
 - Response to management
 - Identify/confirm threats
- Research demographics/identify triggers/identifying population limiters



Number 2: Methods

Protocols for the inventory and monitoring of populations of the endangered Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) in New Zealand


Number 2: Methods



- Close approaches
- Acoustic triangulation
- Call-rate per unit time
- NOREMARK
- Radio-tracking



Methods – Close approaches

- Accurate locations
- Situational
- Requires quiet transportation
- 3-4 hours





Methods – Acoustic triangulation

- Less accurate locations
- Situational density and wetland size dependent
- Requires less people
- Less time (< 1 hr)



Methods – Acoustic triangulation

Areas of uncertainty:

1. Was Bird A 1 or 2 birds? Station 1 has best ability to distinguish.

2. Was there one or two birds in the southeastern corner of the lake? Neither has good angle but call characteristics (e.g. times of calls, number and frequency of booms). Concluded (correctly) that it was the same bird.

3. Were birds G and H one or two birds? Station 2 had a greater ability to distinguish therefore concluded (correctly) that these were two separate birds.



Methods – Call-rate per unit time

- Less accurate locations
- Situational density and wetland size dependent
- Cost effective







Methods – NOREMARK

- Accounts birds not calling
- Requires radio-tagging
- Cost effective (once tagged)
- Good if population change is sudden



Methods – Radio-tracking

- Accurate locational data
- Survival
- Habitat characteristics
- Home range movements
- Behavioural characteristic



Specifics of monitoring using acoustics





Deployment



- 1.5 m
- On stake or tree
- Away from disturbances

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ORIGINAL RESEARCH

WILEY Ecology and Evolution

Check for updates

Cost-benefit analysis of acoustic recorders as a solution to sampling challenges experienced monitoring cryptic species

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Analysis - options



Analysis – visually scanning





