

TECHNIQUES

A NON-SLIP DEVICE FOR SECURING GUY LINES TO NET POLES

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I am currently undertaking a colour-ringing project on Gurney's Sugarbird *Promerops gurneyi* in the Lydenburg district of the Transvaal. These sugarbirds occur in mountainous localities in *Protea roupelliae* clumps, which are sometimes far from roads and not accessible to vehicles. We sometimes have to walk some distance to suitable ringing sites.

Instead of using aluminium poles, we decided to use wooden broomsticks which we put together with an iron piece. The sticks are lightweight and can also be adjusted according to the type of terrain and the height of the protea bushes or aloes. If a sugarbird is caught high up in the net, we simply lower the net by removing the bottom poles and the bird can be easily extracted from the net. We use nylon guy ropes which are ideal for the rainy, misty weather experienced in the Lydenburg area. We found the guy ropes tend to slide downwards and have no grip, even when fastened well. Because of this problem, Neels Bothma, who assisted me with my project, designed a wire hook which can be positioned at any place on the pole (Figure 1). The guy rope can be tied to the hook and secured to nearby rocks or bushes without fear of it sliding downwards during the anchoring process.

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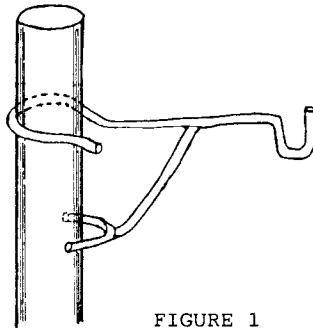


FIGURE 1

DESIGN OF NON-SLIP WIRE HOOK FOR
ATTACHING GUY ROPES TO NET POLES