

## AN IMPROVED TRAPPING FUNNEL FOR SOME TERRESTRIAL GAMEBIRDS

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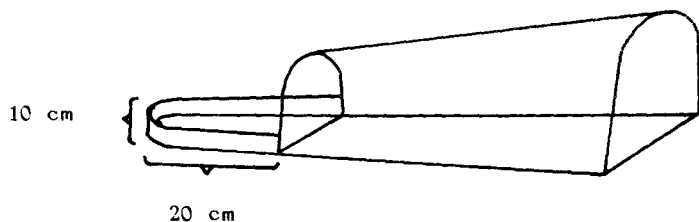
Since 1971 standard walk-in traps have been used to trap Helmeted Guineafowl and Swainson's Francolin on Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve. The same traps were placed out to trap Orange River Partridge but without any success although the birds had been seen feeding on prebaited areas. It was also noticed that the grain inside the traps was taken by some bird which managed to escape after its meal. It was then decided to keep the traps under close observation to determine which birds fed inside the traps without being caught, because the mesh was of such size to retain only birds larger than a Laughing Dove.

On the first afternoon of observation a covey of four Orange River Partridges entered the trap, fed on the grain and then escaped through the funnel. It was noticed that after feeding they walked to the sides of the trap and searched for an exit. When they reached a funnel they, instead of jumping over the funnel like Guineafowl and Swainson's Francolin do, walked along the funnel towards the centre of the trap up to the entrance and then escaped through the way they entered.

The funnel was then changed by attaching a 10 cm wide U-shaped enclosure and being able to see over it, they jumped over it. Once finished feeding they searched for an exit, walked along the side of the funnel around the U-shaped enclosure to the opposite side of the funnel.

After this change had been made to the funnels Orange River Partridge have been trapped very successfully and large coveys up to six birds have been caught in a single trap.

Fig. 1. Funnel with U-shaped enclosure



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Australian Northern Giant Petrel

Macronectes halli

Number: 131-33144

Ringed 16.01.77

Macquarie Island  
54 45S, 158 35E

Controlled 17.05.77  
(Injured)

Released 25.07.77  
Scottburgh, Natal  
30 20S, 30 45E

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