

CALLING BEHAVIOUR OF THE SOUTHERN BOOBOOK *Ninox novaeseelandiae* IN RELATION TO DISTANCE FROM THEIR NEST TREES

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Between 1996 and 1999 we measured the distance from the nest that four Southern Boobooks called using 'territorial boobook' and 'bray' calls, the latter used only by females. Median distances from the nest tree that they used 'territorial boobook' calls were 175 metres and 250 metres for two females, 210 metres and 525 metres for two males. The two females used 'territorial boobook' calls within a 100 metres radius of the nest tree only 12 per cent of the time, the two males only 31 per cent and 0 per cent of the time. Median distances from the nest that both females called using 'bray' calls were 10 metres, range 0–450 metres for one, 0–350 metres for the other. Females used 'bray' calling within 100 metres of the nest 70 per cent and 88 per cent of the time. 'Territorial boobook' calling was not an effective way of finding boobook nests; 'bray' calls of females more often revealed precise nest locations.