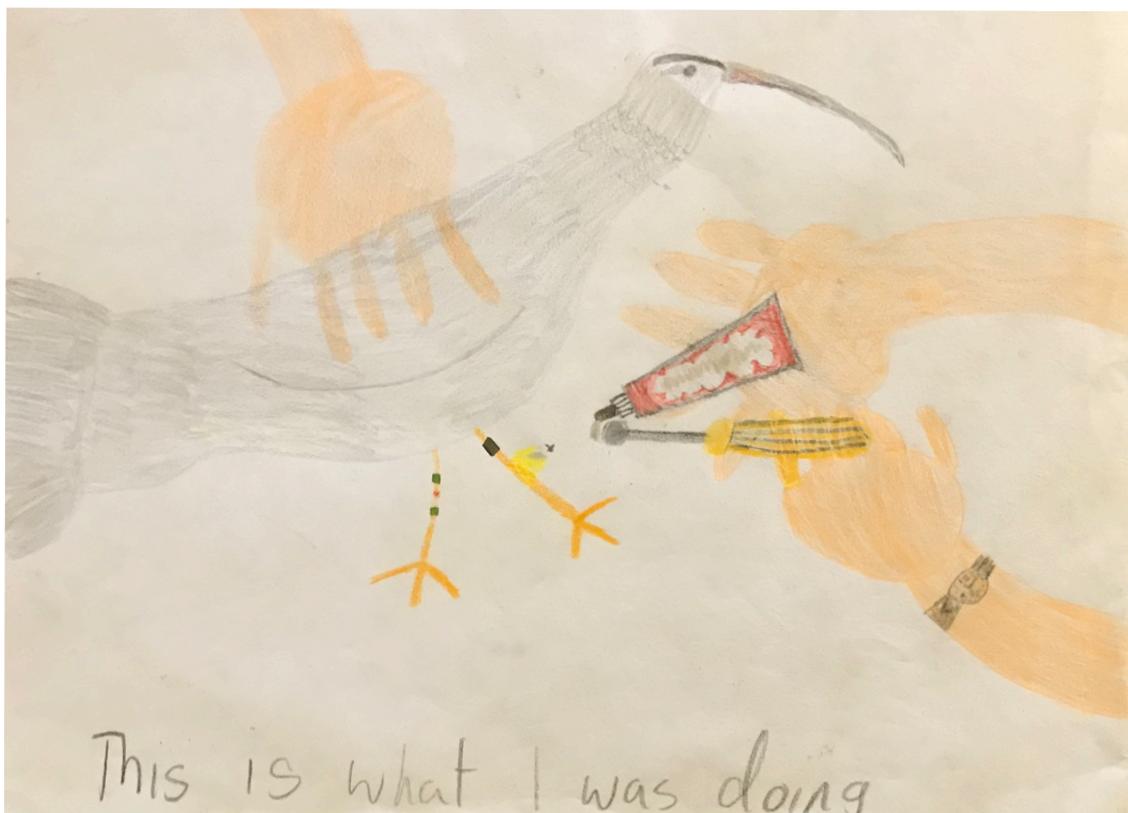


20th October, 2019

### Broome Bird Observatory-Cannon Netting

We were only going to stay at the Broome Bird Observatory for two nights but we decided to stay longer because we had the opportunity to do cannon netting with Chris, who was the researcher in charge of the day. So, on Sunday, we got ready to drive to the spot where the cannon netting was. When we got there we all grabbed a stool and waited under the shade of a Jiggle tree. We waited there for about 30 minutes, then Chris started the countdown from 3. Although I didn't get to see the net shoot from the cannon, I heard it loudly. It sounded like this, BOOM!! We all ran as quickly as we could down a path on the side of a cliff. The path was very sandy and steep. I was a little afraid I was going to fall over but I made it down the path and started running towards the net. Then Chris started shouting that we had to run back to get the boxes for the birds.

I helped count how many birds were in the box a lady had. I carried a box full of Great Knots. They kept on shuffling about in the box. When I got back to the shelter, which was held up by lots of poles, I watched some people put all the birds into some canvas cages under the shelter. Then Chris divided us into teams. I was with Val, Chris, Nyil and Daniel. My job was to put glue onto the end of a screwdriver and when Chris put the flag over the birds leg, I would slide the screwdriver through the gap in the flag and Chris would then hold it shut to seal it. Daniel did the weighing of the birds and checked for molting. Nyil also did the weighing and he measured the birds beak, wings and legs. Chris checked for breeding plumage and he also did the measuring of the birds. Val did the scribing which meant she wrote down on the sheet what their tags were and all their measurements.



*After we did a couple of birds, Chris had to help elsewhere and we got to have a quick break. Then we got back to work tagging the birds. I learnt that Chris travels to China to track the birds that he tags here and that you can tell a birds age by it's tag on its leg. Tracy, Gareth, Mum and Dad were all helping to take samples of 60 birds blood. After the birds had been rested from their blood tests they needed to be released by us kids. Before we released the birds we had to look out for Brahminy Kites, White-bellied Sea-eagles, Black Kites, Whistling Kites and even the Torresian Crow! To release the birds we took the cloth covering off the top of the box and slowly tipped the box forward and the birds flew or walked out of the box onto the beach.*

*Then after that we did some more tagging and then released the next birds.*

*A lady found another Whimbrel in the Great Knots cage, so that made two Whimbrels. They were both already tagged so I didn't need to do anything. Then the coolest thing happened! I got to hold and release a Whimbrel! I named it Whimbey the Whimbrel. I lowered Whimbey down to the ground and he stood still for a little bit then ran off toward the sea.*

*We finished up after that. We took the top roof off the poles and folded it up, then did the same with the second roof. We then gathered all of the poles and formed a human chain and passed all the stuff up to each other.*

*I had a very cool and exciting day. I would love to come and do it all again when I come back to the Broome Bird Observatory.*

*—Amelia Furness (Age 10)*