

Jabiru Rescue at Port of Brisbane

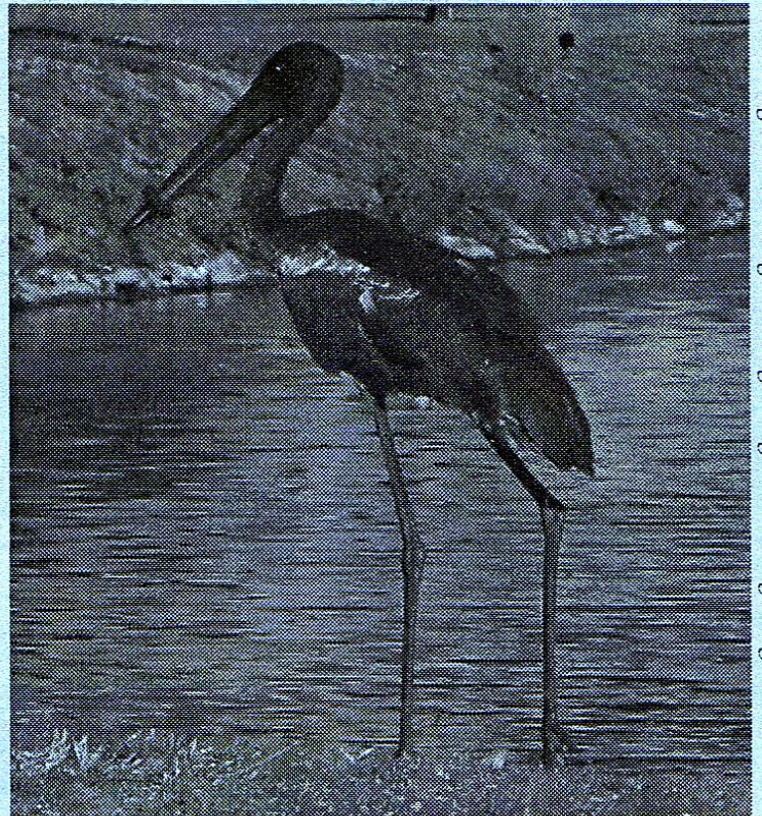
'Dunlop' No Longer Lord of the Ring

Impact designer Jane Long was out at the Port of Brisbane taking wildlife photos recently when she noticed a team of volunteers from Pelican and Seabird Rescue Inc trying to assist a young jabiru in trouble. The jabiru, given the nickname of Dunlop because of a rubber ring around her beak, was in danger of starving if the ring could not be removed. It was gradually moving up her beak, making feeding more and more difficult over time.

The Pelican and Seabird Rescue team which operates along the South-East coast was initially called in by the an employee of the Port of Brisbane who had received reports about the bird's plight. So began what would be a complicated and time-consuming five week mission to snare the elusive bird. The problem was that Dunlop was easily spooked by people and would fly long distances away from her potential saviours whenever she was feeling bothered. She was also clever enough to notice and carefully avoid the elaborate loop snares which were later set up in the areas of the port she frequented. These snares tighten around birds' feet without harming them, but Dunlop appeared to have no intention of finding that out!

Over several weeks an interesting pattern emerged from the various sightings of the bird. It appeared that she travelled regularly between the Narangba Wetlands and the Port of Brisbane. She returned to the Port each Saturday, possibly because this was the port's quietest time due to the restaurant not being open that day. Each Sunday over the weeks of the rescue, when she had enough of people trying to catch her, she would disappear. The following Saturday, once more she would be there.

Finally, after being alerted by a Port Visitors Centre employee to the bird's latest return,



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Dunlop was caught on a miserable rainy evening by her Pelican and Seabird Rescuers, this time using a standard snare. The ring was quickly removed and after a very quick photo session for future educational purposes, the completely uninjured bird was released. So, a very successful outcome was achieved after a lot of hard work by many people.

The Pelican and Seabird Rescue group is a non-profit organisation which has been operating for about four years now. Its team works in close collaboration with similar groups on the Sunshine and Gold Coasts. As well as the practical rescue work it carries out, the group is aiming to increase the public's awareness of the danger that litter poses to seabirds.

For more information, contact Hammy, Sally or Mandy on (07) 3390 6476 or email saveme@pelicanandseabirdrescue.org.au.

Gayle D'Arcy



Pelican and Seabird Rescue Inc.