Ringing birds for conservation

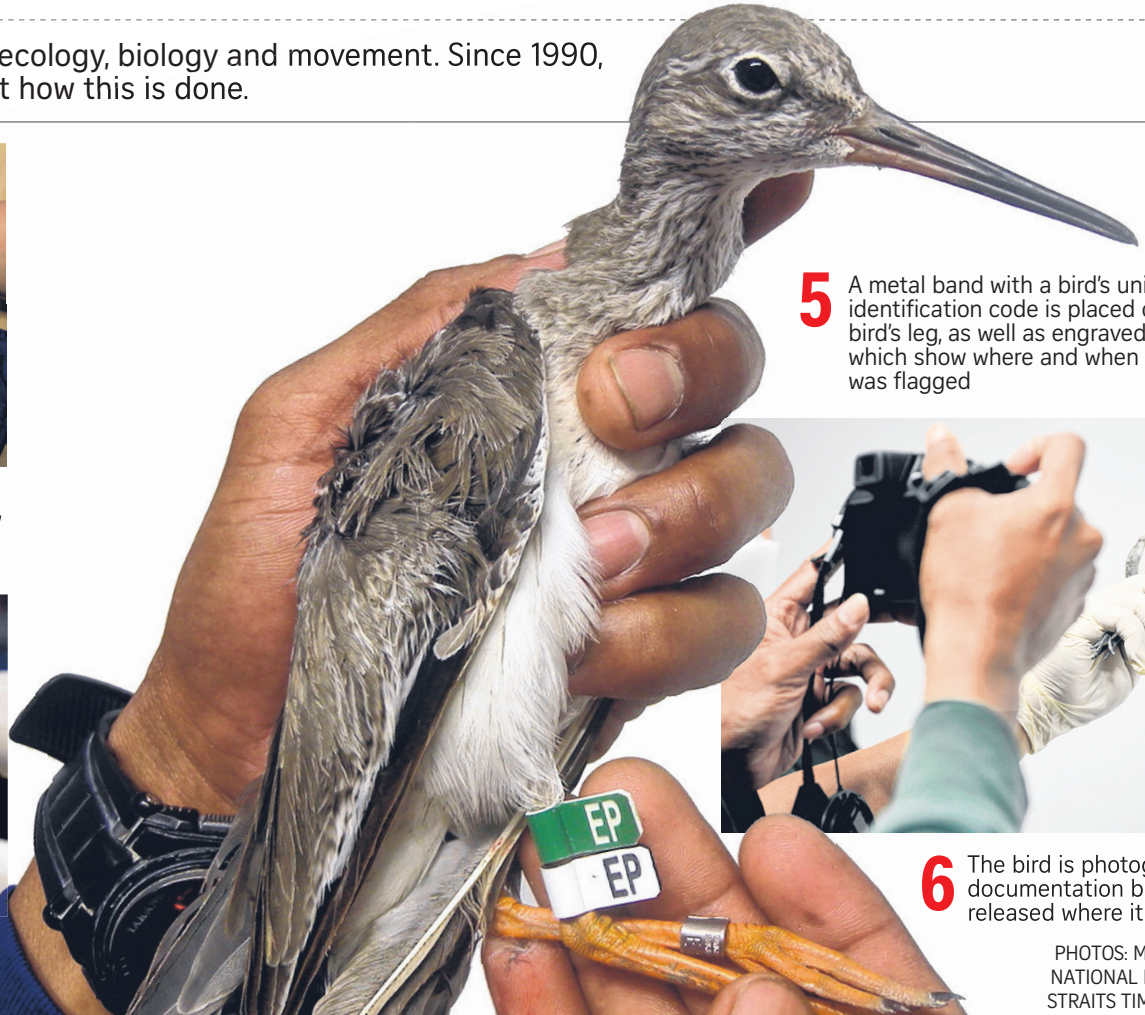
Data collected from bird ringing can help researchers better understand the birds' ecology, biology and movement. Since 1990, the National Parks Board has ringed more than 11,000. Carolyn Khew takes a look at how this is done.

1 Nets to capture birds are set up at night in low-lying areas of Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve.

2 Once caught, the birds are removed carefully from the net and taken to a holding room for inspection.

3 Experts then check the birds for signs of moulting. Moulting not only replaces old feathers, but also helps to regulate body temperature during winter.

4 Weight, wing and beak measurements are also recorded.



5 A metal band with a bird's unique identification code is placed on the bird's leg, as well as engraved flags which show where and when the bird was flagged

6 The bird is photographed for documentation before it is released where it was found.

PHOTOS: MARK CHEONG, NATIONAL PARKS BOARD
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