

RECOVERY OF A RING-MAIMED WHITE STORK

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Currie (Safring News 11: 39-41. 1982) recently stressed the harmfulness of the application of a metal ring to the tibia (in preference to the tarsus) of the White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*. The hazard of this ringing method was clearly illustrated when a dead White Stork was found on 28 June 1987 on the farm Kromdraai, Tshipise in the Transvaal (22°32'S, 30°10'E).

The ring was not closed properly by the ringer (see photograph below) and appeared to have slipped down, tearing through tissue, and coming to rest just above the tibial joint of the leg (see Curry 1982). The inside of the ring was filled with mud, excretion and dead tissue. The whole 'sliding down' process must have taken a couple of months to complete and the subsequent pain and suffering that this bird had gone through before it eventually died can only be imagined. The wound was septic and gangrenous and almost certainly resulted in the bird's death.

Again this is a plea to the ringers concerned to look at more effective ways to ring these magnificent birds and, in general, to close rings properly when ringing any birds.

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