

Afterthought - next time you are burdened with one of those travelled folk, full of the rare, exotic, and endangered, slip in the innocent query "Did you see many coots?". It stops them in full flow, doubt flickers, have they suddenly disappeared? Or did they miss out on some rare sub-species of coot? The setback is only temporary, but it will allow you time to escape.

Footnote:

25 450 Redknobbed Coots have been ringed in southern Africa; the recovery rate is high at over 3%. The longest-lived bird, ringed at unknown age, was shot 187 months later. The oldest 10% of all recovered birds survived a mean 62,4 months. Five birds have travelled distances of over 1 000 km, the furthest being 1 215 km. The mean distance travelled by 191 coots which were recovered more than 10 km away from the ringing locality was 282 km. Dean and Skead (1979, Ostrich 50: 199-202) have published details of moult and body mass of coots caught at Barberspan.

Editor

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COLOUR-DYED WHITE STORK

A Witwatersrand Bird Club reader, Mr G Trollope, of 80 Susman Avenue, Blairgowrie, 2194, submitted the following observation to SAFRING in February 1990:

"One of about 100 White Storks *Ciconia ciconia* (with about 60 Abdim's Storks *Ciconia abdimii*), seen at approximately 25°21S, 27°32E on 28.01.1990 at about 10 a.m., was neck-coloured. The colour was faded, being strongest about the back of the head and towards the breast, and approximated to Munsell 7.5 R 7/8 and may have been orange, shocking pink, or red originally."

If any of our readers in Europe know of a stork-dyeing project which could have been responsible for the colour and position of marking on this bird, we would like to hear of it.

Editor