

FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER

In May 1822, a white stork appeared near Klütz in Germany with an unusual souvenir; an 80 cm arrow sticking through its neck! Somehow the bird had survived the attack and subsequent journey to Germany.

The Pfeilstorch (Arrow Stork) may look like a cartoon injury, but it was no joke, it helped to confirm the answer to a question that had puzzled European biologists for centuries: Where did birds such as storks go during the winter? **Migration** had long been posited as an answer, but there was little evidence and other theories such as hibernation and even turning into other birds or animals had been suggested.

This individual bird's escape may have been lucky, but it's luck ran out when it was subsequently shot in Germany so the arrow could be studied. It was found to be from central Africa. The Stork was stuffed, complete with its unfortunate appendage and has remained in the University of Rostock zoological collection ever since. The first of around 25 'Pfeilstorch' found in Germany.

- If you had seen this stork alive in 1822, what would you have thought and wanted to do next?



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The Pfeilstorch (Arrow Stork) may look like a cartoon injury, but it was no joke, it helped prove the theory that these birds **migrated** each winter, rather than hibernated or changed into other birds or animals (as had been suggested).

This bird's lucky escape was short lived, as it was subsequently shot and stuffed and the arrow was identified as being from central Africa.

- If you had seen this stork alive in 1822, what would you have thought and wanted to do next?

