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an Albinistic Brown Pelican

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GENERAL NOTES

An albinistic Brown Pelican.—Albinism has not been reported in the literature for the Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*). In Florida, Ralph W. Schreiber (pers. comm.) has seen a nestling and an adult Brown Pelican with white feathers, but this could have been the result of physiological, not genetic, abnormalities. Thus, the presence of an almost pure albino individual (Fig. 1) in Volusia County, Florida is noteworthy. The bird was seen by Nesbitt on 24 June and on 15 and 28 July 1978 on the intracoastal waterway near the A1A bridge in New Smyrna Beach. This is surely the same individual seen by Barber, Margaret C. Bowman and Daniel Heathcote at Ponce de Leon Inlet 4 December 1977 and 22 January 1978.

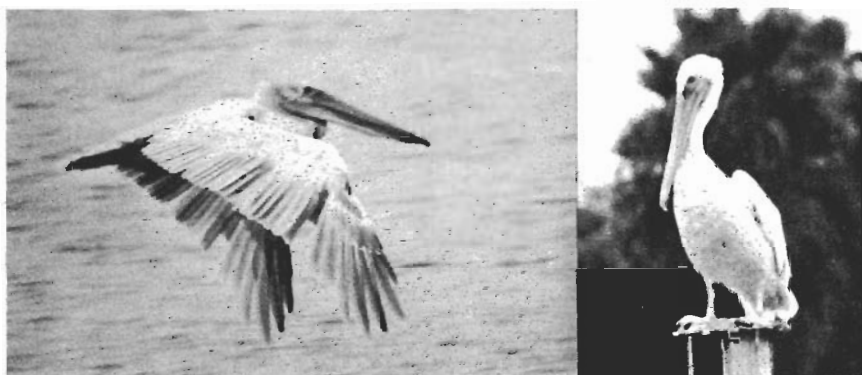


Fig. 1. Albino Brown Pelican at New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, 28 July 1978.

The bird appeared entirely white, but from close range a few tawny feathers were scattered in the wings and back. This coloring could have been soiling of otherwise white feathers. The legs and feet were a medium yellow, the bill was similarly yellow grading to a pale gray at the base. The light cream irides were distinctly different from the dark brown colored irides of other pelicans present in the area at this time of the year. This bird was impossible to age using plumage characteristics, but since it was in the area in late 1977 it was at least one year old when these photographs were taken.

The bird was apparently in good health and was observed diving successfully on several occasions. Normal plumaged pelicans showed no unusual reaction to this aberrant individual.—STEPHEN A. NESBITT, *Wildlife Research Laboratory, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Gainesville, Florida 32601* and ROBERT D. BARBER, *2027 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge, Florida 32955*.

Two unusual nest sites for Canada Geese in Leon County, Florida.—On 24 April 1978, I was shown a nest of a Giant Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis maxima*) by Curtis Russell of Tallahassee. The nest was in the middle of a shortgrass pasture at the base of a mature longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) well over 0.3 km from the nearest permanent body of water. It is highly unusual for a Canada Goose nest to be located that far from water, especially with an abundance of seemingly more suitable nesting cover closer to the water.

The nest, containing three eggs, was composed of pine needles (*P. palustris*) and bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) and was lined with down in typical Canada Goose fashion. Canada Geese generally utilize whatever nesting materials are at hand rather than selecting for a par-