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### Terms for Abnormally White Birds

Since bird-banders occasionally handle birds which are abnormally white and often refer to such specimens as partial albinos, this paper is given to suggest what I believe to be the proper terms. Sometimes good research loses value through the use of poorly chosen terms.

Birds which are completely white with pink eyes exhibit albinism and therefore should be called albinos. Albinism is a hereditary lack of melanin, apparently caused by the absence of an enzyme (dioxypyhenylalaine oxidase, "dopa") or by its inability to be active because of a simple autosomal recessive gene. The classification of degrees of albinism proposed in 1913 by Pearson, Nettleship, and Usher is archaic, since geneticists now are emphasizing that partial albinism does not exist.

Birds which are entirely white or spotted with white and have pigmented eyes, a condition not normal for the species, exhibit leukism, and it would seem logical that they be called leukos. Leukism is known to be caused by a variety of genes and/or, in some cases, by a physiological disturbance, usually in the thyroid gland.

Birds which have a dilute color or paleness in some or all of their feathers, a condition not normal for the species, exhibit schizochromism, and it would seem proper that they be called schizochromos. Schizochromism is known to be caused by a variety of genes.

The use of the terms albinism, leukism, and schizochromism or albinos, leukos, and schizochromos in titles will help simplify indexing and thereby assist in locating articles on such in ornithological literature.

#### Literature cited:

Pearson, Nettleship and Usher. 1913. A monograph on albinism in man. Dulau and Co., London.

Merrill Wood  
The Pennsylvania State College