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.

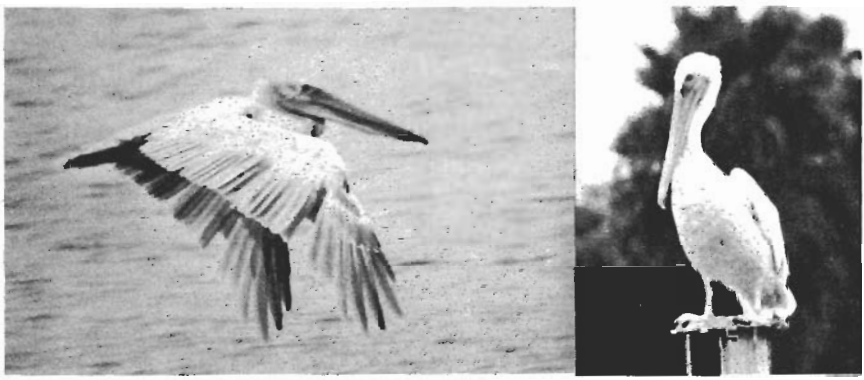

Fig. 1. Albino Brown Pelican at New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, 28 July 1978.

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-

ticular vegetation (Hanson 1965, The Giant Canada Goose, Carbondale, So. Ill. Univ. Press). No gander was present at the nest with the brooding female, and the goose immediately returned to incubate as I left the area.

A second nest was approximately 6 m above the ground in the crotch of a large live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) where several large limbs emerged. The nest was constructed of Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*). I was unable to determine the size of the clutch; however, four goslings are known to have been hatched from this nest as they were sighted with a pair of adult geese on 2 May 1978 (about eight days after discovery of the nest). The nest tree was located approximately 60 m from a large pond where nesting tubs and platforms are provided for the geese. These were the only geese using this pond during the 1978 nesting season.

Both nests were at Southwood Farms near Tallahassee (3.5 km SE), Leon County, Florida.

Occasional tree-nesting by Canada Geese has been known since the time of Audubon and the early explorers of the northwest (Coues 1874, Birds of the northwest, Washington, D. C., U. S. Govt. Printing Office). It has been most frequently reported for the race *B. c. moffitti*, but the giant Canada Goose frequently nested in trees in northwestern North Dakota (Audubon 1969, Audubon and his journals, The Missouri River journals, New York, Dover); in the Reelfoot Lake area of Tennessee, and in the "bootheel" area of Missouri (McKinley 1961, Bluebird 28(3):2-8). A tree nest of *B. c. interior* in the muskeg country of northern Ontario was reported to Hanson (1965) by an Indian. The old nests of Ospreys, hawks, herons, or ravens usually serve as the platforms for such nests (Hanson 1965). Thus, although occasional tree-nesting has been observed in other areas, this is the first record of tree-nesting by Canada Geese in Florida so far as the author could determine.

These nesting geese are part of a large group of birds introduced into the Tallahassee area by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission over the past 10 years in an effort to establish a nonmigratory flock of Canada Geese.—THOMAS M. GOODWIN, *Wildlife Research Laboratory, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Gainesville, Florida 32601.*

Osprey nest relocation at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Florida.—Because of Corps of Engineers dredging activities in the Banana River at the Merritt Island National (NWR), Brevard County, Florida, an Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) nest resting on barge canal pilings had to be relocated. This Osprey nesting site had been active and successful annually since April 1973, when two young were raised.

The relocation activity was undertaken on 24 March 1978 by personnel of the Merritt Island NWR. At 0730, the nest was inspected and removed intact from the piling. The pair of Ospreys exhibited little anxiety or hostility at the removal even though the nest contained one egg. The nest was installed at a pre-erected artificial Osprey nest structure in the Banana River approximately one km south of and visible from the original nest site. Both sites were over and approximately 20 feet above the water. The old site, on five mooring pilings fastened together, had a base of solid wood 3 feet in diameter. The new site, elevated by a single "telephone pole type" support, had a base of 1 × 2 inch welded fencing material 3 feet square. Although erected in 1974, the artificial nest structure was never used as a nesting site. After relocation the nest was arranged as similar to its original configuration as possible, except the egg, originally found covered by nest material, was exposed. The total operation took three hours.

During the relocation operation, the Osprey pair remained in the area, and they were observed loafing on the artificial nest site before nest relocation. The Osprey pair was not observed (one hour of observation time) at the new nest following relocation. However, the next day two Ospreys were seen at the new site, and on a number of occasions following relocation, an adult Osprey was seen bringing nest material to the new site, repairing the nest and/or incubating the egg. On 19 May 1978, the nest was inspected and found to be empty and undisturbed. Despite