

biguously in the literature, or that connote an unwarranted interpretation of the coloration observed, should be avoided in descriptions. I recommend using straightforward titles such as "Yellow replaces rose in the coloration of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak" or similar descriptors.

I am grateful for comments on the manuscript by Paul A. Buckley, an unnamed reviewer, and Editor James Kushlan; their suggestions helped to make this complicated subject much clearer.

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Further comments on a white Brown Pelican.—Nesbitt and Barber (1979, *Fla. Field Nat.* 7: 6) described several observations of an almost completely white Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) near New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, between December 1977 and July 1978. During July 1982, the current authors twice saw a white Brown Pelican in the same area. On 7 August, Fisher and Roberta Lawrence captured and banded (519-72124) this bird just north of the SR 44 bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway in New Smyrna Beach. This location was approximately halfway between the two given in the 1979 account and near the New Smyrna nesting colony that was active during the preceding three nesting seasons. This banded individual has been seen several times since, most recently in October 1983.

In August 1982, the bird was nearly completely white; the neck and back of the head showed traces of the brown that characterize adults in breeding condition. These characteristics were not observed in the bird seen in 1978. The underwings, leading edge of the wings, belly, and flanks also had some scattered brownish feathers. All brown plumage was lighter than the normal color. The irides were the same light greenish-cream, and the legs, pouch, and bill were yellowish as the previously reported pelican. The overall appearance

was that of a mostly white, i.e. leucistic, adult. Color photographs taken at that time are on the cover of the Florida Naturalist 55(5), December 1982. By October 1983, the bird had darkened substantially. It had the appearance of a typical adult, even to the point of a yellowish crown. Though it is still distinctly lighter than a normal pelican.

As noticed in the 1979 account, the occurrence of a white or nearly white Brown Pelican has never been reported. For this reason and because subsequent to banding this individual has been seen regularly in the same area, it is possibly the same individual referred to in the 1979 note.

The earlier description of the bird as "albinistic" was intended to imply "tending toward an albino condition." Based on the valuable comment received from J. P. Hailman a more appropriate designation would be non-eumelanin schizochroism, the lack of eumelanin causing the pale, leucistic appearance.

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Synchronous diving by Hooded Mergansers.—Synchronous diving, although a well known phenomenon in mergansers, apparently has not been recorded for Hooded Mergansers (*Mergus cucullatus*). On 14 January 1974, on the Indian River, near Titusville, Brevard County, Florida, I observed a party of nine Hooded Mergansers. I often saw them swimming in line, and these birds generally kept together as a flock. The two recognizable adult drakes in the group apparently were not its dominant members. I observed vigorous and often excited scurrings across the surface of the water with some 'food-scanning', thrusting their heads below the surface with quick side-to-side movement. Apparently when food was found, synchronized diving by all members of the flock occurred. Within a few seconds of one another, each member of the flock disappeared for fewer than twelve seconds. With the reappearance of the first Hooded Merganser, the others soon surfaced. Independent diving of individuals also occurred but was less in evidence.

I have seen similar behavior in other species of *Mergus*. On 11 November and 2 December 1962, in Teignmouth in the county of Devon, England, on the turbid waters of the River Teign, I frequently saw 24 Red-breasted Mergansers (*M. serrator*) 'food-scanning' and diving together on the rising tides. I have also seen 'food-scanning' and synchronous diving by small groups of Red-breasted Mergansers on the Cornish coast in the English Channel and Atlantic, and on inland pools of brackish water. In addition prior to severe arctic weather in Britain in the winter of 1962, forty Common Merganser (*M. merganser*) arrived on some of the few pools of the large frozen Chew Valley Lake (500 h) in Somerset (now Avon), West Country, England. Vigorous synchronous diving by the Goosanders occurred during their short stay.—Bernard King, Gull Cry, 9 Park Road, Newlyn, Penzance, Cornwall, England.

Florida Field Naturalist 12: 39, 1984.