

Two albino Herring Gulls found at Rogers City, Michigan.—On 10 June 1962 I found an 8- to 10-day-old albino Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) in a colony of about 500 pairs of nesting birds at Calcite, Rogers City, Michigan. The entire downy plumage was pure white; the legs, feet, and bill were pink. The irides, being unpigmented, showed the blood circulation beneath, hence appeared bright pink. Both color and black-and-white photographs were taken (Figure 1, A). The vegetation was one foot to 18 inches in height and appeared to be adequate for the bird's concealment.



Figure 1. A (left), 8- to 10-day-old albino Herring Gull, Rogers City, Michigan, 10 June 1962. B (right), same bird with its normal nest mate, 4 July 1962.

I noted during the first days of observation that this bird appeared to be more gentle and unobtrusive than its normal nest mate. When moved and handled, the nest mate ran into the open and had to be brought back repeatedly. The albino submitted itself to handling without much attempt to run or move about. This retiring behavior plus adequate concealing vegetation may account for its survival during the month of record. Since atypical individuals such as albinos are often harassed by birds or mammals of normal coloration, I returned several times within the next six days and observed that the young bird was fed and protected normally by the parents along with its normal gray nest mate.

On 4 July I returned to the colony to find both nestlings undisturbed. I again photographed the albino (Figure 1, B), now about one month old. The coloration of the bill, legs, feet, and eyes was unchanged, but most of the back, wing, and tail feathers now were a pale buff in contrast to the medium gray of the normal nest mate.

On 9 June 1963, in the same colony, I found another albino Herring Gull, apparently freshly killed and about four days old. This bird exhibited all color characters of the other albino at about the same age. It was found well in the open and away from possible concealing vegetation. In the last seven years I have banded 7,716 Herring Gulls at this colony and these were the only two albinos observed.—WALTER P. NICKELL, *Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.*