



Leucism in a Great Frigatebird and Sooty Tern

by Mark J. Rauzon

Sightings of leucistic seabirds are rare. Grant and Pettit (1981) and Grant (1982) reported the presence of albino Laysan Albatrosses (*Diomedea immutabilis*) on Midway Island. Clapp (1974) and Paton (1981) reported leucistic Black Noddies (*Anous minutus*). I report here on the sightings of a Great Frigatebird (*Fregata minor*) and Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*) lacking normal pigmentation.

Hawaii Department of Lands and Natural Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists conducted a reconnaissance from 16-18 April, 1984 on Kaula Rock. This State of Hawaii seabird sanctuary is a crescent-shaped volcanic tuff cone located about 100 km SW of the island of Kauai.

We observed a white frigatebird (Figure 1) repeatedly being chased in flight by Brown Noddies (*Anous stolidus*), White Terns (*Gygis alba*), and normally black pigmented frigatebirds. This individual frigatebird was the only one in a flock of about 50 to be pursued by terns. However, normally colored frigatebirds gave chase to each other.

At its roost site, I observed a tawny wash on the throat, which is typical of juvenile Great Frigatebirds (Harrison 1983); otherwise, the plumage was white. At close range, I observed a pink bill, also typical of juveniles, and a dark (red?) eye. Based on a valuable comment received from J.P. Hailman, this bird exhibited a case of non-eumelanin leucism, meaning that the deletion of the black pigment eumelanin reveals the white or leucistic appearance. The tawny throat was likely due to pheomelan and the missing pigment eumelanin.

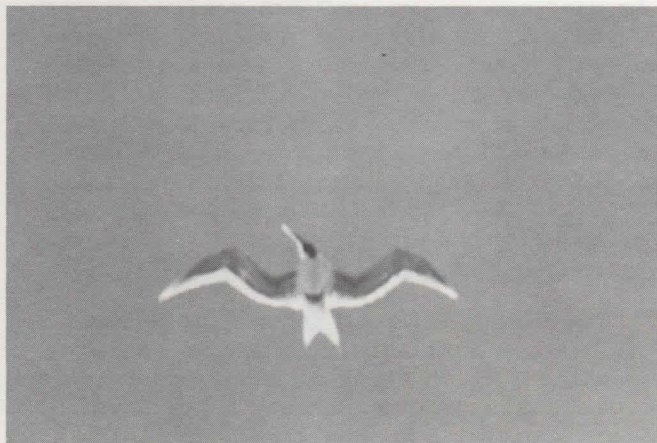


Figure 1. Leucistic Great Frigatebird exhibiting juvenile throat coloration.

Photo by Gene Nitta



Figure 2. Sooty Tern with leucistic feathers on head and back on nest.

Photo by M.J. Rauzon

The sooty tern had leucistic feathers in the normally black colored area of the head and back (Figure 2). This abnormal coloration appeared to have no adverse affects since this nesting individual had to be at least 4 years old, the minimum recorded breeding age. They do not usually breed until 6-8 years old (Ashmole 1963b).

Because these birds exhibited some degree of normal coloration, they are not considered albino. The albino condition has no pigment whatsoever. Almost every abnormally colored bird reveals something new in genetic expression. Thus, it is important to properly describe the condition of plumage in order to determine the accurate genetic description (Hailman 1984).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to R. Clapp, J.P. Hailman, and P. Paton for their valuable comments. Thanks also to the U.S. Navy and Marines who were very cooperative in providing transportation and support, and to the State of Hawaii and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the opportunity to work on Kaula Rock.

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First Record of the Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) on Guam

by Robert E. Beck, Jr.

I observed a single Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) in winter plumage at the Togcha River outfall, southeast coast of Guam, Mariana Islands on 30 October 1982 at 5:00 p.m., on a rising tide. It was foraging on the mudflats with approximately 20 other shorebirds. Included in the flock were Lesser Golden-Plovers (*Pluvialis dominica*), tattlers (*Tringa* spp.) and Ruddy Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*).

The Marsh Sandpiper was observed for 40 minutes in good light with 10x40 binoculars and a 15-60x spotting scope at a distance of 25-30 meters. While thinner than the Lesser Golden-Plover, its body was about the same length and it had long thin greenish legs and a long straight thin black bill. It looked somewhat like a smaller, more slender Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*). The underside of the body and neck was white, and its back was light grey. When the bird flew, a white "wedge" up its back was plainly visible.

On 5 November 1982, I returned to Togcha with Celestino Aguon and Julie Savidge, biologists with Guam Aquatic and Wildlife Resources (GAWR), and we observed two Marsh Sandpipers. These birds were feeding with Lesser Golden-Plovers, Ruddy Turnstones, tattlers, 15 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers (*Calidris accuminata*), one Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*), one Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), one Common Greenshank, Mongolian Plovers (*Charadrius mongolus*) and several unidentified stints. Two Marsh Sandpipers were again seen at Togcha on 8 November 1982. On 26 December 1982, one Marsh Sandpiper was seen on Duncas Beach, Alupang Cove, Tamuning on the west-central coast of Guam.

Marsh Sandpipers were not seen during bimonthly censuses at Togcha and Duncas Beaches from October 1979 to September 1980 by GAWR (Jenkins, 1981; Maben, 1980). During an extensive survey of Guam's shorebirds at these same beaches from 15 August 1983 to 25 October 1983, Janet Williams, a visiting biologist from Swarthmore College, did not observe the Marsh Sandpiper (Williams and Grout, In press). However, a single individual was seen by Celestino Aguon and Gary Wiles in interior Guam at a commercial fish pond at Bubulao in March, 1984 and again on 11 April 1984. On 19 August 1984 I observed a single Marsh Sandpiper at Duncas Beach.

This is the first record of the Marsh Sandpiper for Guam (Owen, 1977b). Owen (1977a) reported it only from the Palau Islands in Micronesia where it was first seen in Koror in May 1974

and then again in 1975 and 1976. A single Marsh Sandpiper was seen on Saipan on October, 1979 (Engbring and Owen, 1981).

The Marsh Sandpiper is a "Marsh and riceland sandpiper which nests in central Eurasia from Austria to Novosibirsk in Western Siberia, north of the Caspian Sea, and in eastern Siberia from the Asian region westward to Lake Baikal. It overwinters in Africa, Asia Minor, India, south-east Asia, Indonesia to Australia" (McClure, 1974).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Celestino Aguon, Robert Anderson, Paul Conry, Julie Savidge, Gary Wiles and Janet Williams for reviewing the manuscript and Janet Blas and Guadalupe Mafnas for typing the manuscript.

This study was supported by the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration (Pittman-Robertson) Program, Project FW-2R.

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EDWIN H. BRYAN, JR.

1898-1985

Edwin H. Bryan, Jr., an international authority on the geography and natural history of the Pacific islands, died in Honolulu in late July. He was a founder and Honorary Life Member of the Hawaii Audubon Society. In the 46-year history of the Society, fewer than ten persons have received this honor.

Although an enthusiastic member of the small group that formed the Society in 1939, Bryan declined to accept active office but, along with George Munro, consented to be an adviser to the new organization in its first year. His subsequent contributions to the HAS monthly journal, *'Elepaio*, and other assistance, were most valuable and extended not to just one year but to many years.

Ed Bryan's working base was the Bishop Museum, a Honolulu institution renowned for its scientific collections and research embracing the Pacific Ocean area. His association with the Museum lasted over 60 years, during 32 of which he was the Curator of Collections. The trustees chose him as the first Brigham Fellow, an honor named after the Museum's first director, William T. Brigham. In 1960 he founded the Pacific Scientific Information Center, located in the Museum, where he worked until recently when declining health limited his activity.

From 1940 through 1944, Bryan contributed important articles to *'Elepaio*, providing basic historical data on the collection and study of endemic Hawaiian birds. In April, 1941, he began a "Checklist of Birds" series which ran for 15 issues, ending in June, 1942. This was the first comprehensive list of birds of Hawaii since the days of Perkins, Rothschild, Wilson and Henshaw, at the turn of the century. In 1944, he and J. C. Greenway brought out a more scholarly work: *Contributions to the Ornithology of the Hawaiian Islands*, published by the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard. This was an annotated checklist with historical summary. This list, with revised versions of his 1941-42 list, were the only authoritative, comprehensive checklists of Hawaiian birds throughout that period.

From the 1940's to the 1970's, Bryan reviewed many books and articles for *'Elepaio*, including important works on Hawaiian birds. He also wrote occasional pieces on various subjects such as the Hawaiian Bat, plants on Popoia Island, etc. In 1969 he accepted custodianship (in the Bishop Museum and Pacific Scientific Information Center) of Hawaii

Audubon's bird-banding records. These included records of George Munro's banding of seabirds on Oahu islets and other Pacific islands, and of several cooperators who banded under Hawaii Audubon's permit on Midway after World War II.

In early 1970, *'Elepaio* ran Bryan's three-part series titled, "History of Bird Banding in Hawaii". This series analyzed significant features of banding records, distribution of species banded, etc.

Although his University of Hawaii and Yale studies focussed on botany and entomology, Bryan was interested in many disciplines. He excelled in the gathering and dissemination of information on the Pacific islands. His extensive knowledge, gained through field trips and research, proved of great value to the armed forces with which he served during World War II. A dedicated worker, he often used his own funds to carry forward his projects. Although a busy schedule was the order of the day for him, he was, nevertheless, very willing to help persons in search of information.

In the legacy of knowledge which E. H. Bryan, Jr. left to the world were the books which he wrote and over 2,000 published articles and shorter works. The members of the Hawaii Audubon Society join countless other individuals and organizations in gratitude for this legacy and the past assistance so generously given by him. We extend our condolences and aloha to Mrs. Bryan and her family.

JULY MEETING REPORT

Michael Buck, a forester with the Hawaii State Division of Forestry and Wildlife, spoke and presented the 15 July narrated slide show on the wildlife of Costa Rica, where he recently spent two months. Mike has just returned from having completed a master's degree from the University of Florida.

He began with some geographical and historical background about Costa Rica with its unique ecological land systems. Geographically there are low lands, a high central plateau, tropical rain forests, and coastal regions. San Jose, the capitol with a population of 500,000, is the main city in this country of 1.5 million. War, slavery, and disease wiped out the Indian population early, so only 5% of the present population is Indian; 20% (mostly Jamaican) are black. The conquest by Spain in the 1520's found mostly an agricultural population with no gold or other minerals.

San Jose is on a high plateau, and is similar to upland Maui. Coffee is the No. 1 export and serves as a big cash crop in this classic "banana republic". As a consequence of a revolution in the 1950s, the army was abolished, so Costa Rica, bordering on Nicaragua on the northwest coast, is dependent on the United States for protection.

Beautiful parks abound in Costa Rica; nature is important to them, as evidenced by their pictures in the Art Museum.

The lowland rain forest is a closed forest with lots of water. Mike showed slides of the many kinds of Heliconia, palm trees (up to 20 ft. high) in the understory, and the many spectacularly colorful tree frogs (designer styles and colors, no less!). Three-toed Sloths live in slow motion, and are a whole moving ecosystem in themselves, complete with vegetation they consume and dwell in, and their own parasites. Also, there are many monkeys, each species specialized to a particular vegetation, such as fruit eaters and other combinations of diets. Eight hundred species of birds live in Costa Rica, many of them song birds and winter migrants from the United States.

One of the perils of exploration and scientific study are the many snakes, tree as well as ground dwellers (special boots and caution are advised).

There were also spectacular slides of some of the 1100 species of orchids, as well as golden frogs and bromeliads, and the many plumeria, which have no pollen, so Mike did not know how they propagate.

There are many symbiotic insect/plant relations, an example being the thorn acacia/ant relation. Ants predominate (many species, sizes, numbers) and are very possessive of an area or particular tree(s). Ants really rule the forest and scientists are just beginning to study how they work, clear the ground, grow fungus for food, and have symbiotic relations. There are leaf cutter ants, but also army ants and others, in structured social organizations.

The coastal areas of Costa Rica have fine beaches and some surf, but sharks abound and are dangerous. Some sharks congregate in the rivers.

Costa Rica is very conservation minded, serving as a model for other countries in Central and South America. It attracts environmentally aware tourists; the living also is cheap, with a relaxed life style. One conclusion Mike drew was the importance of saving rain forests, both for the present and future

ecology, and the role Costa Rica can and does play in this preservation.

Betty L. Johnson

NWF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION FELLOWSHIPS

Every year the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) offers annual Environmental Conservation Fellowships and Environmental Publication awards. The fellowships are available for graduate research and study, and the publication awards are available to reward graduate students for excellence in professional writing. To find out more about these conservation funds, and how to obtain applications, write to: Executive Vice President, National Wildlife Federation, 1412 Sixteenth Street, Washington, D.C. 20036-2266 or call Steve Montgomery with the local NWF affiliate Conservation Council of Hawaii (CCH) at 941-4974. The deadline for completed applications is November 30, 1985.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

CONSERVATION ASSISTANTS

Person(s) needed to assist Conservation Committee by gathering needed information. Volunteer(s) would attend public hearings, obtain copies of public documents, etc., as his/her time permits. This is a good opportunity to greatly assist the conservation activities of the Hawaii Audubon Society and to observe the workings of government. No experience necessary. Retirees welcome. Interested? Contact Wayne Gagné (847-3511 extension 154) or Carl Christensen (373-3457).

TYPISTS/PROOFREADERS

Typists and proofreaders are needed for the monthly production of the 'Elepaio. The time required can be whatever you can donate—as little as one or two hours per month. Free cookies! Call Marie Morin (533-7530) or Peter Galloway (531-2490).

MAILING ASSISTANTS

Volunteers are needed to help with the monthly mailing of 'Elepaio (usually on the last Sunday of each month). No experience necessary. If you can help, please call Alan Ziegler (247-5318).

THINGS TO READ

The local U.S. Forest Service (USFS) office publishes a periodic newsletter "American Pacific Forestry News". To get on the mailing list write to: Leonard Newell, Editor, USDA-Forest Service, 1151 Punchbowl St. Room 323, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.

The National Audubon Society has recently published a 650 page book "The Audubon Wildlife Report 1985". The publication has been labeled as a "field guide" to government natural resources agencies, although it is more than that; it also includes comprehensive accounts of the endangered species program, inland fisheries management, federal aid for wildlife, animal damage control, and others. It is intended for serious conservationists, lawmakers, and agency personnel. In future years it will be updated annually. The first edition is now available for \$16.50 (includes postage) from: Wildlife Report, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

UPCOMING MEETINGS
OF INTERESTRAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION CONFERENCE-NOV. '85
ANNOUNCEMENT AND FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

The 1985 Raptor Research Foundation (RRF) International Meeting and Symposium on the Management of Birds of Prey will be held at the Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn in Sacramento, California, November 2-20, 1985. Highlights of the meeting will include: 1) the Second RRF Conference on Raptor Conservation Techniques--Twelve Years of Progress, 1973-1985; 2) a Western Hemisphere Meeting of the World Working Group on Birds of Prey (ICBP); 3) the Second International Vulture Symposium; 4) a Western North America Osprey Symposium; 5) a Workshop on North American Candidate Endangered Raptors; 6) an International Symposium on Raptor Reintroduction; and 7) a Symposium on Raptor Rehabilitation, Captive Breeding, and Public Education. For more information or if you are interested in presenting a paper, please contact Dr. Richard R. Olendorff, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825, or Nancy Venizelos, San Francisco Zoological Society, Sloat Blvd. at the Pacific Ocean, San Francisco, California 94132.

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT

XIX CONGRESSUS INTERNATIONALIS ORNITHOLOGICUS

The 19th International Ornithological Congress will be held in Ottawa, Canada, from 22 to 29 June 1986. Its President is Prof. Dr. Klaus Immelmann. The Scientific program has been determined and comprises plenary lectures, symposia, contributed papers (oral and posters), round table discussions, special interest group meetings, and workshops. Pre- and post-congress excursions and workshops are planned, as well as early morning bird walks and other activities for members and accompanying members.

The deadline for registration and submission of contributed papers is January 1986. Additional information, the final circular, and registration forms are available from: Dr. Henri Ouellet, Secretary General, XIX Congressus Internationalis Ornithologicus, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0M8.

GENERAL MEETING OF THE

WORKING GROUP ON GRANIVOROUS BIRDS-INTECOL

On August 13, 1986, during the IV International Congress of Ecology, Syracuse, New York (during 10-16 August 1986) the General Meeting of the "Working Group on Granivorous Birds-INTECOL" will be held.

The theme of the symposium has tentatively been formulated as "The Role of Granivorous Birds in Ecosystems". The following topics will be included: a) population dynamics; b) biomass and production rates; c) energetics; d) impact of granivorous birds on ecosystems; and e) pest management.

This will include a review of up-to-date results of international studies on *Passer* and other granivorous birds and a discussion of the most fruitful directions for further study.

Oral presentations at the symposium will be limited to 15 minutes. The program of the symposium will be established by December 31, 1985, based on titles and one-page abstracts submitted by that date.

All correspondence, including requests for information, should be sent to: Prof. Dr. Jan Pinowski, Chairman of Working Group, Department of Vertebrate Ecology, Institute of Ecology, PAS, Dziekanów Leśny, 05-092 Lomianki, Poland.

SEPT. FIELD TRIP SEA LIFE PARK

The Sunday 8 September field trip will be "Behind the Scenes" at Sea Life Park, Oahu. Cost for the special tour will be \$1.75 per adult, 50¢ per child ages 4 to 6, and \$1.00 per child ages 7 to 12. The tour will meet at the entrance to Sea Life Park at 9:30 am and will last from 9:45 am to 10:30 am. THIS TRIP IS LIMITED TO 16 PERSONS; RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE AHEAD OF TIME. Mail a check for the correct amount (made out to "Sea Life Park") before August 23 to: Ray Tabata, 2830 Lowrey Ave, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822. MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE A PHONE NUMBER WHERE YOU MAY BE REACHED. If you would like more information, call Ray at 988-2958.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SOCIETY

HAWAII'S BIRDS by the Society (1984). This is the best field guide to our birds, and includes colored illustrations of all native and well-established nonnative species..... \$4.95 plus postage: 85¢ (surface mail) or \$1.03 (air). Hawaii residents only: add 20¢ for tax.

FIELD CHECKLIST OF BIRDS OF HAWAII by R. L. Pyle (1976). A pocket-size field card listing 125 species found in Hawaii with space for notes of field trips.
(Postpaid).....\$.25
(ten or more, 10¢ per copy)

GUIDE TO HAWAIIAN BIRDING by members of the Society and edited by C. J. Ralph (1977). Where to go and some idea of what you are likely to see. For the islands of Kauai, Oahu, Lanai, Molokai, Maui and Hawaii
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CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF HAWAII by R. L. Pyle (1983). An authoritative compilation of all species naturally occurring in Hawaii as well as those introduced by man which are currently established as viable populations. Gives each species' status.
(Postpaid).....\$2.00

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM: SEABIRDS

The Monday 16 September general meeting will feature a free talk and slide show by Dick Wass on "Seabirds".

Dick is currently working for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Honolulu and is the Refuge Manager for the remote Hawaiian island refuges such as Laysan, Pearl and Hermes, and French Frigate Shoals.

The meeting will be held at McCully-Moiliili Library at 2211 S. King St., Honolulu, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and bring along a friend!

BACK ISSUES OF 'ELEPAIO

Current prices for back issues of '*Elepaio* are listed below. Actual postage charges for shipping will also be added on to these prices.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept. 8 (Sun.) Field trip to Sea Life Park.
YOU MUST HAVE RESERVATIONS: CALL
LEADER RAY TABATA (988-2958).
- Sept. 9 (Mon.) Board meeting at home of
Suzan Harada, 3081 Holua Place on
Oahu. Call 845-6704 for info.
- Sept. 16 (Mon.) General meeting at 7:30 pm.
at McCully-Moiliili Library, 2211
S. King St., Honolulu with Dick
Wass on Seabirds.
- Sept. 21 (Sat.) Paste-up of 'Elepaio begin-
ning at noon. Call 533-7530 for
information.

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