

as entered below. I also took five frames of photos using a disposable Kodak "TeleFoto 35" camera.

At 8:45 a.m., I telephoned Tom Jackman hoping that he might obtain photos using more sophisticated equipment. He took photos later that morning.

I returned to the beach at about 11:15 a.m. with Doug Cooper. We saw 21 juvenal Sanderlings, plus the albino. Cooper obtained a series of photos using a 300 mm telephoto lens. We left all the birds in peace on the beach. This bird was relocated daily on the same beach through 17 Sept. 1995.

**Description:** Ground color of entire plumage, white; to the naked eye the plumage appeared entirely snowy white both at rest and in flight. Under binoculars, a very pale pinkish brown to pale beige wash was visible on the crown, back, scapulars, primaries, and perhaps the tail. This wash was palest on the crown and back. The scapulars showed two diffuse bars of pinkish brown wash. Wing coverts were white. Visible primaries of sitting bird were scantily washed with pinkish brown. The tail apparently showed a similar wash, but no satisfactory views were obtained. At the bend of the wing was a darker (though still pale) patch of pinkish brown - this patch homologous to the black at the bend of the wing in normally plumaged birds. The spread wing showed, under binoculars, a "ghost image" of the typical Sanderling wing pattern, with a broad white wing stripe against a background of white lightly washed with pale brown. Iris was dark. Bill was dark fleshy brown. Legs and feet were dark fleshy brown, scantily paler than the bill.

The degree of coloration in the plumage was reminiscent of second-year Glaucous Gull - i.e., clean white to the naked eye, but with pale brown discernible on close scrutiny.

**Age:** I was unable to determine the bird's age. The bird lacked any hint of the "checkerboard" mantle of juvenal Sanderlings, but this may have been due to absence of melanin. I otherwise have no record of adult Sanderlings since 26 Aug. 1995, and all birds seen in September 1995 were identified as juvenals.

**Social Behavior:** At the times I observed the albino, it was mostly within 10-15 feet of the normally plumaged Sanderlings, but it remained isolated from the others

and did not partake in the flocking behavior typical of this species. Jackman observed aggressive ostracization of the albino by the other Sanderlings.

#### **Albinism in Sanderlings:**

Deane 1876:22f. remarks on the paucity of records for albino shorebirds:

An albino, (*C. fulvus* var. *Virginicus* - *Pluvialis dominica*) is the only instance which has come to my knowledge of albinism occurring in any of our Plovers or Sandpipers, and as these species



*Sanderling albino, Jackson Park, Cook Co., 13 Sept. 1995.*  
Photo by Thomas Jackman.



are shot in such immense numbers during the migration it is a little strange that we do not hear of more examples, as such curiosities are always preserved, even by the market gunner. *P(hilohela) minor* and *G. Wilsoni* (= *Capella gallinago*) have been shot in white plumage.

Deane 1680:29 adds several records of albinism in shorebirds (mostly from European collections), including two for Sanderling:

Mr. Geo. E. Browne... shot an albino Sanderling at Cotuit, Mass., Oct. 22, 1879. The bird was pure white, with the exception of a faint line on the head.... Mr. C. M. Adamson records a white Sanderling which was shot at Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, Aug. 28, 1979, "nearly all white; the centre of the head cream-color, shaded to white, gradually and evenly marked there as elsewhere. Beak and legs olive."

#### **Literature Cited**

Deane, R. 1876. "Albinism and melanism among