

## An albino Olivaceous Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* in the Brazilian Amazon

Francisco Mallet-Rodrigues

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Um indivíduo albino de biguá *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* foi fotografado por Luiz Claudio Marigo, em outubro de 1996, no lago Jarauá, na Reserva de Desenvolvimento Sustentável Mamirauá, Amazonas, sendo esse o primeiro registro documentado de albinismo na espécie. Embora acompanhado por milhares de outros biguás, o albino era frequentemente perseguido por outros indivíduos.

Olivaceous Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* is a widespread and sociable Neotropical species of coastal waters, freshwater lakes and rivers.

In October 1996, an albino *P. brasilianus* was photographed by Luiz Claudio Marigo on Jarauá lake, in Reserva de Desenvolvimento Sustentável Mamirauá, Amazonas state, Brazil. In contrast to typical individuals, the albino had entirely white plumage. The bill colour and that of the naked gular region were, however, as normal. Albinism is characterised by the partial or total loss of pigmentation of the integument<sup>2,3</sup>. Although it was accompanying thousands of other individuals of the same species, the albino was frequently pursued by nearby birds, a factor occasionally noted in observations of albinos.

Albinism within *Phalacrocorax* has been recorded<sup>1,4</sup>, but this is the first documented case in *P. brasilianus*.

### Acknowledgements

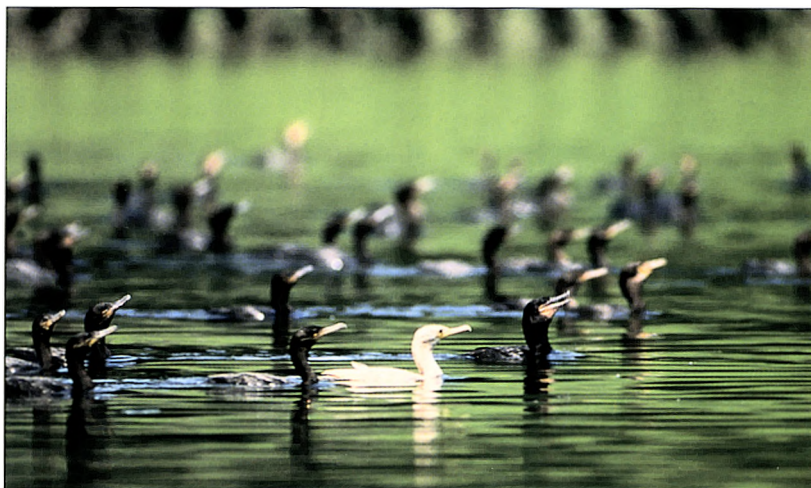
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### References

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### Francisco Mallet-Rodrigues

Laboratório de Ornitologia, Departamento de Zoologia, Instituto de Biologia, UFRJ, 21941-590, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brasil, e-mail: [mallet@biologia.ufrj.br](mailto:mallet@biologia.ufrj.br).



Albino Olivaceous Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*, Reserva de Desenvolvimento Sustentável Mamirauá, Amazonas state, Brazil, October 1996 (Luiz Claudio Marigo)