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LEUCISTIC WOOD FROG (*RANA SYLVATICA*) TADPOLE FROM NORTHERN VIRGINIA—Albinism in North American amphibians was summarized by Hensley (1959) and Dykarcz (1981). They were unable to find a record of this phenotype for the Wood Frog. Luce and Moriarty (1999) subsequently reported an albino from Wisconsin. This tadpole was raised to adult size and became ivory yellow with a pinkish mask. The dorsum of normally colored *R. sylvatica* tadpoles is brownish gray to gray black finely speckled with gold, the venter is iridescent grayish bronze to bluish or pinkish bronze or cream, and there is a cream line that extends along the upper jaw (Wright, 1914; Ruthven et al., 1928; Vogt, 1981). Wright (1914) noted that tadpoles are usually greenish-black with fine gold and a few orange spots dorsally, and the tail has small gold flecks scattered over the surface, some of which are iridescent. These descriptions capture the normal range of color variation in *R. sylvatica* tadpoles in Virginia. Here we describe a leucistic variant for a wood frog population in northern Virginia.

On 14 March 2004, one of us (JW) collected two Wood Frog egg masses in a vernal pool in Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road in Chantilly, Virginia (Fairfax County) along the Transcontinental Gas Pipeline (TGP) right-of-way Chantilly (38° 52' 01" N, 77° 25' 57" W). The TGP transects the second-growth hardwood area of the park and supports several

ditches and low areas that fill with water during the spring. The egg masses were collected in one of these ditches. No other species were observed in the pool.

The collected egg masses were placed in a small holding pond. Development of the eggs was unremarkable and appeared to be normal. On the morning of 7 May 2004, a light colored tadpole was observed foraging among the dark leaf litter near the bottom of the pond. On discovery, the total length of the leucistic tadpole was 44 mm at Gosner stage 39 (Gosner, 1960). This tadpole lacked most of its dark body pigment and appeared somewhat golden in color (Fig. 1). It appears that with loss of the black pigment, the gold iridiphores became the most prominent color. The iris was bronze and the pupil black, the normal colors described by Wright (1914). Thus, the phenotype described here is consistent with the leucistic definition in Dyrkacz (1981).

The site where the leucistic tadpole egg mass was collected was visited several times and several thousand tadpoles were observed. All were normal in coloration; no other light-colored tadpoles were observed. The development of the tadpole appeared to be slightly behind the majority of the others in the holding pond. The majority of the tadpoles were at Gosner stage 41-42, while the leucistic tadpole was at stage 39. This is the first report of a leucistic *Rana sylvatica* tadpole in Virginia.

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Fig. 1. Leucistic *Rana sylvatica* tadpole and a normally colored tadpole from Fairfax County, Virginia.

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