

To the Editor:

Keith Augustine (2007) repeatedly invoked the epistemological standard that extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence. However, he ignored William James's "white crow" standard: "If you wish to upset the law that all crows are black, you mustn't seek to show no that crows are; it is enough if you prove one single crow to be white" (James, 1897, p. 5). As applied to the nature of near-death experiences (NDEs), this standard would suggest that *one* example of a veridical NDE not explainable by any means other than discarnate consciousness would be sufficient to prove its existence. My reading of the literature has not convinced me that we yet have that one irrefutable instance, but I remain hopeful that we shall.

References

- Augustine K. (2007). Does paranormal perception occur in near-death experiences? *Journal of Near-Death Studies*, 25, 203–236.
- James W. (1897). Presidential address. *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research*, 12, 2–10.

Steven M. Cooper
801 Carlisle Boulevard, SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106
e-mail: stevenmcooper@zianet.com