Supra æneo-vireaceus; regione praecoxlaris nigra et supra cæm linea pura utrinque alba, ursopygio albo-fusco leviter striato; ails et cauda migrans transversa, secundimur in pagonio externo ab alio anguste marginatis; subitus omnino albus, abdomen vix fusco leviter striato, rostro et pedibus nigris. Long. tota 4-5, alae 3-8, caudæ rectr. med. 1-5, rectr. lat. 1-7, rostri a rictu 0-6, tarsi 0-4. (Desc. maris ex Belize, Brit. Honduras. Mus. nostr.)

Hab. MEXICO, Mazatlan (Grayson 3 4, Boucard); BRITISH HONDURAS, Belize river, Cays of the coast (O. S. & F. D. G.); GUATEMALA, Peten, Yaxha, Rio Dulce, Huamuchal, Chiapam, San José de Guatemala 4 (O. S. & F. D. G.); SALVADOR, La Union (O. S.); HONDURAS, Amapala (O. S.); NICARAGUA, Corinto (Baxter); COSTA RICA (Zeledon 5); PANAMA, (M’Leannan 1 2 4 6), Matachin (O. S.)

Tachycineta albilinea was described from Panama specimens by Mr. Lawrence 1, and a few weeks afterwards as Petrochelidon littorea by Salvin, from specimens obtained during our expedition of 1861-63 7. It has since been found to be abundant on both coasts of Central America 7, and also of Mexico from Mazatlan and Vera Cruz southwards.

As will be seen above, it has been met with at nearly every port of Central America on the Pacific coast. In Guatemala and British Honduras, besides observing it on the coast, we found it not uncommon frequenting the inland freshwater lakes of Peten and Yaxha, and all down the Belize river.

At Matachin on the Chagres river a nest with young was found in May 1873, in an old post, a hollow palm which had once served to support the roof of a hut.

At Mazatlan, the most northern recorded limit of its range, Grayson says 3 it is common and resident, being one of the few non-migratory Swallows. At all seasons of the year its twitter may be heard about the eaves of the tiled houses or the spacious corridors of the peculiarly constructed Moorish Mexican haciendas. He often saw it skimming along the streets, at times almost touching the pavement in its pursuit of flies. Its customary haunts, he says, are near or about large towns or haciendas, and he rarely saw it far from some human habitation. In April it commences to form its nest, usually beneath the eaves of houses or in holes in the wall, often in the hollow tubes for conveying the water from the flat roofs of the buildings. This Swallow, he adds, is very sociable in its habits, and may often be seen in considerable numbers perched upon the roofs of the houses.

This account of the habits of T. albilinea hardly agrees with our experience. We only found them along river-courses or frequenting lagoons or lakes, a favourite perch being the dead bough of a snag projecting out of a river. Such places would often be far from any village; and though these birds were sometimes observed by us near habitations, they did not seem to be the attraction, but some river flowing hard by.

T. albilinea is probably a resident species wherever it is found.

Its nearest ally is T. leucorrhous of Peru, Southern Brazil, and the Argentine Republic.