

This species appears to be found throughout Mexico as far as the south-western confines of that country, but as yet we have no record of it or of the allied form in Yucatan\*.

Sumichrast states that it is a very common species in the temperate and colder parts of the State of Vera Cruz, and that it builds its nest in the houses of Orizaba<sup>7</sup>. It is not, however, solely confined to these districts, for both Grayson<sup>9</sup> and Forrer met with it near the sea-level in the vicinity of Mazatlan.

It frequents the banks of streams, and most of its insect prey is taken from near the surface of the water. It builds a nest with an outer wall of mud like that of a Swallow; this is fastened to a wall or placed on a shelf, beam, or ledge of rock, with an overhanging projection to protect it from rain. The nest is lined with fine grass or moss and horse- or cow-hair. The eggs are pure white.

*S. nigricans* appears to be resident in Mexico and also in Arizona and California, but in more northern districts where its insect food fails in the cold weather it is a summer visitor, migrating southwards at the approach of winter.

#### 4. *Sayornis aquatica*.

*Sayornis aquatica*, Sci. & Salv. Ibis, 1859, p. 119<sup>1</sup>; Lawr. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. ix. p. 110<sup>2</sup>; v. Frantz.

J. f. Orn. 1869, p. 306<sup>3</sup>; Boucard, P. Z. S. 1878, p. 62<sup>4</sup>; Sci. Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xiv. p. 33<sup>5</sup>.

*Aulanax aquatica*, Cab. J. f. Orn. 1861, p. 247<sup>6</sup>.

*Sayornis nigricans*, Bp. Compt. Rend. xxxviii. p. 657<sup>7</sup>; Notes Orn. p. 87<sup>8</sup>.

*S. nigricanti* similis, sed crisso fuliginoso distinguenda.

*Hab.* GUATEMALA, Quezaltenango, Dueñas<sup>1</sup>, Retalhuleu, Escuintla, R. Michatoya near San Pedro Martyr, San Gerónimo (*O. S. & F. D. G.*); NICARAGUA (*Delattre*<sup>7 8</sup>); COSTA RICA (*v. Frantz*<sup>2 3</sup>, *Arcé, A. R. Endres*), San José (*Boucard*<sup>4</sup>).

*Sayornis aquatica* takes the place of *S. nigricans* in Guatemala and the rest of Central America as far south as Costa Rica, and may be recognized by its dusky under tail-coverts, those of the allied form being white. In the north-western parts of South America another form of *Sayornis* occurs with dusky under tail-coverts, *S. cineracea* (Lafr.), but may be distinguished by the broader white edgings to its wings and tail and its blacker plumage.

*S. aquatica* is a familiar bird in many parts of Guatemala, where, like its congener, it frequents streams, often resting on a stone on the margin or even surrounded by water; from such a point of observation it will fly suddenly and seize passing insects. In its general habits it is more active than Tyrant Flycatchers usually are, and may not unfrequently be seen about houses, some running stream being near. We never met with the nest of this species.

\* Brewer states that *S. nigricans* is resident in Guatemala, and he quotes Salvin as his authority, adding that the note may refer to *S. aquatica*; a curious inaccuracy, as the passage quoted is appended to the original description of *S. aquatica*, no mention whatever being made of *S. nigricans*!