

length. The pterylosis resembles that of the Snipes (Scolopacinae), and the tail is more or less distinctly forked.

Eleven genera of Terns are recognized by Mr. Howard Saunders, and four of them are found in Central America.

HYDROCHELIDON.

Hydrochelidon, Boie, Isis, 1822, p. 563; Saunders, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xxv. p. 5 (1896).

This genus includes four species of small size, with a blackish under surface in summer, changing to white in winter, the young being also white below. The tail is not very deeply forked, and is short, being less than half the length of the wing; the rectrices are rounded or slightly pointed. The bill is small, with the culmen less than twice the length of the tarsus; the feet are feeble, and the webs between the toes considerably indented (*cf.* Saunders, *l. c.*).

Of the four species known, one is peculiar to the New World, and two of the Eastern forms, viz. *H. leucoptera* and *H. hybrida*, have occurred incidentally in American waters.

1. *Hydrochelidon surinamensis*.

Surinam Tern, Lath. Gen. Syn. iii. 2, p. 352¹.

Sterna surinamensis, Gm. Syst. Nat. i. p. 604².

Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis, Baird, Brewer, & Ridgway, Water-Birds N. Amer. iii. p. 318³; Ferrari-Perez, Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus. ix. p. 179⁴; Zeledon, An. Mus. Nac. Costa Rica, 1887, p. 133⁵; A. O. U. Check-l. N. Amer. Birds, 2nd ed. p. 26⁶.

Pelodes surinamensis, Heine & Reichenow, Nomencl. Mus. Hein. p. 356⁷.

Hydrochelidon surinamensis, Saunders, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xxv. p. 20⁸; Oates, Cat. Eggs Brit. Mus. i. p. 176, t. 13. fig. 5⁹.

Sterna frenata, Scl. & Salv. Ibis, 1860, p. 278¹⁰.

Hydrochelidon plumbea, Lawr. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. vii. p. 479¹¹; Scl. P. Z. S. 1864, p. 179¹²; Scl. & Salv. P. Z. S. 1864, p. 373¹³.

Hydrochelidon fissipes, Salv. Ibis, 1864, p. 385¹⁴; 1866, p. 205¹⁵; Coues, Ibis, 1864, p. 391¹⁶; Scl. & Salv. P. Z. S. 1871, p. 573¹⁷; Lawr. Mem. Bost. Soc. N. H. ii. p. 318¹⁸; Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. no. 4, p. 52¹⁹; Sumichr. La Nat. v. p. 234²⁰.

Sterna superciliaris, Lawr. Mem. Bost. Soc. N. H. ii. p. 318²¹; Sumichr. La Nat. v. p. 234²².

Hydrochelidon lariformis, Streets, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. vii. p. 27²³.

♀. *Ptil. æstiv.* Supra saturate schistacea, alis dorso concoloribus, remigibus nigricantibus, primariis extus et ad apicem cineraceis, rhachidibus albis, secundariis intimis omnino cineraceis; margine alari albo; cauda cineracea; pileo toto nigro, collo postico nigro adumbrato; facie laterali et corpore subtus toto fumoso-nigris; tibiis, crisso et subcaudalibus albis; subalaribus albidis, majoribus, axillaribus et remigibus intus pallide cineraceis: rostro nigro; pedibus saturate brunneis; iride saturate brunnea. Long. tota circa 9.0, alæ 7.9, caudæ 2.8, culm. 1.25, tarsi 0.55. (Descr. feminae adultæ ex Cay Dolores Channel. Mus. nostr.)

♂. *Ptil. hiem.* Supra cinerea; torque collari albo; pileo cineraceo, plumis medialiter nigris et cano adumbratis; fronte, loris, regione oculari, facie laterali et corpore subtus toto albis, regione anteoculari et