

southwards in winter, at which season it may be looked for in Central America. The nest is usually a depression in the sand, but is sometimes a rough structure of water-plants.

The eggs are two or three in number, varying much in form and colour, from pale greenish-white or bluish-white to different shades of buff, with spots and blotches of blackish-brown with underlying markings of grey or pale purple³.

✓ 3. *Sterna dougalli*.

Sterna dougalli, Montagu, Orn. Dict. Suppl. cum fig.¹; Scl. & Salv. P. Z. S. 1871, p. 571²; Lawr. Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. no. 4, p. 51³; Baird, Brewer, & Ridgway, Water-Birds N. Amer. ii. p. 303⁴; A. O. U. Check-l. N. Amer. Birds, 2nd ed. p. 25⁵; Saunders, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xxv. p. 70⁶; Oates, Cat. Eggs Brit. Mus. i. p. 186⁷.

Sterna paradisea (nec Brünn.), Salv. Ibis, 1864, p. 387⁸; 1886, p. 199⁹; Coues, Ibis, 1864, p. 389¹⁰.

Ptil. æstiv. præcedentibus similis, sed rostro gracili nigro, pileo nigro cum plumis nuchalibus elongatis cristam formantibus, et primariis intus ad apicem ipsam albo marginatis; corpore subtus albo roseo induto distinguenda: rostro nigro, basin versus aurantiaco-rubro; pedibus aurantiaco-rubris; iride brunnea. Long. tota circa 15·5, alæ 8·9, caudæ 2·5, rectrice extima 7·4, culm. 1·55, tarsi 0·75. (Descr. maris adulti ex Grassy Cay. Mus. nostr.)

Ptil. hiem. ptilosi æstivæ similis, sed fronte alba maculata et pectore albo haud roseo induto distinguenda.

Hab. NORTH AMERICA, Massachusetts, casually to Maine and Nova Scotia⁵.—MEXICO, Ventosa Bay, Tehuantepec (*Sumichrast*³); BRITISH HONDURAS, Belize, Grassy Cay (*O. S.*^{6 8 9 10}).—SOUTH AMERICA, Venezuela⁶; WEST INDIES⁶.—SEAS OF TEMPERATE EUROPE AND EASTERN ASIA⁶; INDIAN OCEAN to Australia⁶; AFRICA⁶.

The beautiful Roseate Tern is distinguished by the pale grey, almost silvery-white, colour of the upper surface, and especially by the white edging to the inner web of the primaries, which is continued round the end of the quill. The bill is black, with the base red or orange, decreasing in extent during the breeding-season. In old birds the white breast is suffused with a rosy blush, which gradually vanishes after death.

S. dougalli, like *S. fluviatilis*, has a wide distribution in the Old World, and is found breeding in many localities along the Atlantic coast of North America. It probably nests in Central America also, as Salvin found it on Grassy Cay off the coast of British Honduras, apparently preparing to breed⁸.

As Mr. Howard Saunders remarks⁶, this is essentially a Sea-Tern, usually nesting on low islands, though sometimes on sandy coasts. Audubon found the eggs in Florida, where the species occurred in small flocks; the former were deposited on the bare rocks or among the roots of grasses. The eggs are three in number, more elongated, as a rule, than those of the Common Tern, but passing through the same variations of colour⁷.