

the West Indies. It occurs in winter on both coasts of Mexico and Guatemala, and Nelson believes that the species may breed in very limited numbers on the Tres Marias Islands <sup>11</sup>. We found it abundant in Guatemala, and Salvin procured specimens at Belize and on Glover's Reef off the coast of British Honduras <sup>23</sup>.

*S. maxima* is often to be seen fishing in flocks, and breeds in colonies, the nest being a mere depression in the sand. The eggs are one or two in number, of a broad, pointed, oval form, the ground-colour varying from cream to pale buff. The surface-markings consist of spots and small blotches of deep chocolate- or blackish-brown, and these are almost invariably blurred or smudged at the margin. The underlying markings are of a pale purple colour, and are also blurred and ill-defined. The markings of both kinds are equally, and not very thickly, distributed over the whole shell <sup>12</sup>.

## 6. *Sterna elegans*.

*Sterna elegans*, Gambel, Pr. Acad. Phil. 1848, p. 129 <sup>1</sup>; Baird, Brewer, & Ridgway, Water-Birds N. Amer. ii. p. 287 <sup>2</sup>; A. O. U. Check-l. N. Amer. Birds, 2nd ed. p. 23 <sup>3</sup>; Saunders, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xxv. p. 84 <sup>4</sup>; Nelson, N. Amer. Fauna, no. 14, p. 24 <sup>5</sup>.

*Thalasseus elegans*, Coues, Ibis, 1864, p. 389 <sup>6</sup>; Salv. Ibis, 1866, p. 198 <sup>7</sup>.

*Sterna galericulata* (nec Licht.), Scl. & Salv. P. Z. S. 1871, p. 568 <sup>8</sup>; Lawr. Mem. Bost. Soc. N. H. ii. p. 317 <sup>9</sup>.

*Ptil. æstiv.* præcedenti similis, sed minor, rostro longiore et graciliore; notæo paullo saturatiore, cauda albidior: rostro læte aurantiaco-rubro; pedibus nigris. Long. tota circa 16·0, alæ 12·2, caudæ 3·4, rectrice extima 5·8, culm. 2·65, tarsi 1·15. (Descr. maris adulti ex San Mateo. Mus. nostr.)

*Ptil. hiem.* ptilosi æstivæ similis, sed fronte alba distinguenda. Long. tota 15·5, alæ 11·25. (Descr. maris hiem. ex Corpus Christi. Mus. nostr.)

*Juv.* ptilosi hiemali similis, sed rostro nigricante.

*Hab.* NORTH AMERICA, Pacific coast of Southern California, once on Atlantic coast at Corpus Christi, Texas <sup>4</sup>.—MEXICO, Guaymas, west of Sonora (*Stone* <sup>2</sup>), Mazatlan (*Gambel* <sup>1 2</sup>), Isabella I. (*Grayson* <sup>9</sup>), Gulf of Tehuantepec, San Mateo (*Sumichrast* <sup>8</sup>); SALVADOR, La Union (*Dow* <sup>4 6</sup>); HONDURAS, Bay of Fonseca (*Dow* <sup>7</sup>). — SOUTH AMERICA, western coast to Chile <sup>4</sup>.

This species is smaller than *S. maxima*, but has a longer and more slender bill; the wing does not exceed thirteen inches in length. The black colour of the lores, according to Mr. Howard Saunders <sup>4</sup>, runs completely into the posterior portion of the nostrils, and the mantle is a shade darker than in *S. maxima*, and the tail is rather more conspicuously white, otherwise the plumages of the two species are similar.

*S. elegans* is an occasional visitant to the coast of California, and a specimen from Corpus Christi, Texas, obtained by Mr. F. B. Armstrong in July, is in our collection. It has been found nesting in Sonora, and occurs in winter along the western coast of Central America. Grayson noticed it on Isabella Island, off the coast of San Blas, and states that it was common at Mazatlan through the winter months, until the