

latter part of March, when it congregated on the beach in large numbers, and in a short time disappeared for its breeding-grounds⁹. Mr. Nelson did not find the species on the Tres Marias Islands⁵. In winter it extends its range along the western coast of South America to Peru and Chile⁴.

An egg taken by Captain Stone at Guaymas was white with a pinkish tinge; the markings were quite bold and distinct, and were of a deep black and burnt-sienna colour, with subdued shell-markings of lavender-grey².

✓ 7. *Sterna anæstheta*.

L'Hirondelle de Mer de l'Isle de Panay, Sonn. Voy. Nouv. Guin. p. 125, pl. 84¹.

Sterna anæstheta, Scop. Del. Faun. et Flor. Insubr. ii. p. 92²; Baird, Brewer, & Ridgway, Hist.

N. Amer. Birds, ii. p. 316³; Zeledon, Cat. Aves Costa Rica, 1887, p. 133⁴; A. O. U. Check-l.

N. Amer. Birds, 2nd ed. p. 26⁵; Saunders, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xxv. p. 101⁶; Oates, Cat.

Eggs Brit. Mus. i. p. 190⁷.

Haliplana panaya (Lath.), Salv. Ibis, 1864, p. 381⁸; Coues, Ibis, 1864, p. 391⁹.

Haliplana panayensis (Gm.), Salv. Ibis, 1866, p. 199¹⁰.

Onychoprion panayensis, Scl. & Salv. P. Z. S. 1871, p. 572¹¹; Zeledon, Cat. Aves Costa Rica, 1882, p. 36¹².

Haliplana discolor, Coues, Ibis, 1864, p. 392, note¹³.

Ptil. æstiv. Supra fuliginoso-brunnea, schistaceo lavata; interscapulio canescentiore; pileo nuchaque niger-rimis; fronte angusta et supercilio brevi pure albis; loris et fascia lata oculari nigris, pileum nigrum lateralem conjungentibus; collo postico celato, faciei et colli lateribus et corpore subtus toto pure albis; alis dorso concoloribus; tectricibus primariorum et primariis nigricantibus, vix cinereo lavatis, et intus cuneatim albis; uropygio et cauda clarius schistaceis, rectricibus intus et basin versus albis, externis plerumque albis apicem versus cinerascantibus, rectrice extima alba, vix subterminaliter cinerascante: rostro et pedibus nigris; iride saturate brunnea. Long. tota circa 15.0, alæ 10.1, caudæ 2.8, rectrice extima 6.5, culm. 1.55, tarsi 0.85. (Descr. maris adulti ex Lighthouse Reef. Mus. nostr.)

♀ mari similis. Long. tota circa 14.8, alæ 10.45. (Descr. feminae adultæ ex Southern Water Cay. Mus. nostr.)

Ptil. hiem. ptilosi æstivæ similis, sed pileo albo maculato distinguenda.

Juv. adultis hiemalibus similis, sed pileo toto nuchaque nigro striatis, notæi plumis albido marginatis; tectricibus alarum minimis nigricantibus; primariis et rectricibus saturatoribus, intus magis restricte albidioribus: subtus pure alba. (Descr. av. juv. ex Florida. Mus. nostr.)

Hab. NORTH AMERICA, casual in Florida⁵.—BRITISH HONDURAS, Cays of Belize coast¹⁰, Lighthouse Reef⁹, Saddle Cay^{7 8}, Curlew Cay⁷, Southern Water Cay⁶ (*O. S.*); COSTA RICA (*Zeledon*^{4 12}).—WEST INDIES⁶.—COASTS AND ISLANDS of South Atlantic⁶, Indian, and Pacific Oceans⁶.

Owing to their style of coloration, the Sooty Terns have been often considered to be generically distinct from the typical species of the genus *Sterna*, but Mr. Howard Saunders (*t. c.* p. 110) has been unable to find any structural characters to warrant their separation.

The present species is easily recognized by its dark smoky-brown upper plumage and white breast, this latter character being present in the young birds also. It occurs occasionally in Florida, but breeds in Central America, as Salvin procured the eggs on