

Water Cay<sup>6</sup> (*O. S.*); HONDURAS, Ruatan I. (*Gaumer*<sup>7</sup>); NICARAGUA, Greytown (*Holland*<sup>14</sup>); PANAMA (*McLeannan*<sup>6</sup>), Santiago de Veragua (*Arcé*<sup>6 13</sup>).—ISLANDS OF ALL TROPICAL OCEANS, but almost unknown on the Pacific side of South America<sup>6</sup>.

The well-known "Sooty" Tern is very similar in colour to the preceding species, but is distinguished by its larger size and uniform mantle, which is not paler than the rest of the upper surface, as in *S. anæsthesia*: the frontal white band is broader, and the white streak above the eyes is also wider and does not reach beyond them, being separated by a narrow continuation of the loreal stripe; the inner toe is also much less excised than in *S. anæsthesia*<sup>6</sup>. The young birds are sooty-brown below. Mr. Howard Saunders gives the habitat of the species as follows:—"Tropical and juxta-tropical seas, wherever suitable islands and reefs exist; occasionally wandering to Maine in North America, and to Europe, even as far as England. Almost unknown on the South American side of the Pacific; otherwise very generally distributed." *S. fuliginosa* occurs plentifully on the islands off the southern coast of Florida<sup>4</sup>, and is found on both sides of Central America, breeding on the islands off the coast of British Honduras and also on Isabel Island, near San Blas, in Western Mexico<sup>16 17</sup>. Nelson found it plentiful in the vicinity of the Tres Marias, breeding on Isabel. He says that the species is never seen near the shore of the mainland, usually keeping far out at sea. It appears to be seminocturnal, and is a constant resident throughout the locality<sup>19</sup>. Grayson also noticed *S. fuliginosa* near the Tres Marias and Socorro Island, but that it was only seen in scattered parties about the Revillagigedo group<sup>16 19</sup>.

In certain spots, such as the Island of Ascension, the Sooty Terns breed in incredible numbers, laying but one egg on the ground, without any attempt at a nest. The eggs resemble those of *S. anæsthesia*, but are somewhat larger; the surface-markings are coarser and of a brighter reddish-brown, frequently blending together at the broad end to form an irregular cap or zone; the ground-colour is usually of a creamy tint, and comparatively few eggs are tinged with pink; the underlying markings are generally large and clear<sup>7</sup>.

### ✓ 9. *Sterna antillarum*.

*Sternula antillarum*, Less. Descr. Mamm. et Ois. p. 256<sup>1</sup>.

*Sterna antillarum*, Salv. Ibis, 1864, pp. 384<sup>2</sup>, 387<sup>3</sup>; 1866, p. 199<sup>4</sup>; Coues, Ibis, 1864, p. 390<sup>5</sup>; Scl. & Salv. P. Z. S. 1871, p. 571<sup>6</sup>; Lawr. Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. no. 4, p. 52<sup>7</sup>; Baird, Brewer, & Ridgway, Water-Birds N. Amer. ii. p. 309<sup>8</sup>; A. O. U. Check-l. N. Amer. Birds, 2nd ed. p. 26<sup>9</sup>; Saunders, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xxv. p. 122<sup>10</sup>; Oates, Cat. Eggs Brit. Mus. i. p. 194, t. 14. fig. 3<sup>11</sup>.

*Sterna supercilialis* (nec Vieill.), Lawr. Mem. Bost. Soc. N. H. ii. p. 318<sup>12</sup>.

*Sterna frenata*, Dresser, Ibis, 1866, p. 44<sup>13</sup>.

*Ptil. æstiv.* Minima; supra clare cinerea; loris et pileo toto nuchaque nigerrimis; collo postico et interscapulio summo vix albicantioribus; fronte usque ad supercilium anticum pure alba; alis dorso