

type of *A. ridgwayi* on Socorro Island ¹¹, where it was breeding. Grayson had formerly noted that a Noddy replaced the Sooty Tern on the Revillagigedo group of islands (*cf.* Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist. xiv. p. 301). It is also doubtless this bird which Salvin observed off the Pacific coast of Guatemala ⁷. Grayson found *A. pileatus* breeding in communities on the north end of Isabel Island, the nests being placed under overhanging rocks and quite inaccessible ⁸.

Mr. Nelson noticed numbers of these Terns at sea between San Blas and the Tres Marias Islands, off which a few were seen during May. The species was common at the end of April on Isabel at the north-eastern point of the island. Here it inhabited the rugged faces of the cliffs and rocks and was very tame. He writes:—"While perched on the black lava-cliffs, their dark colour blended so closely with the background that it was very difficult to distinguish them, even when within fair gunshot. The day we left the island we visited their resting-place and fired a dozen or more shots while they were on the rocks or flying about, but the noise of the reports did not seem to give them much alarm. They would circle out a short distance, and, after hovering for a few moments over their killed or wounded companions floating in the water, would return to the same part of the cliff from which they had just been started. They were not heard to utter any notes, and the silence with which they would suddenly appear out of the cliff, and then return and vanish again in its gloomy face, produced an uncanny effect." Mr. Nelson says that, when at sea, the Noddies fly close along the surface of the waves with long graceful wing-strokes, their dark colour and habit of keeping close to the water causing them on many occasions to be mistaken for Petrels ¹².

Mr. Anthony found this species breeding in abundance on a small rock about a mile off the western end of Socorro Island. After several unsuccessful attempts, a landing was made at the risk of life and limb, and a series of eggs obtained. The latter were all laid on the bare rock, without any attempt at nest-building, and were often placed on protruding shelves but little wider than the egg, so that it was a mystery how they escaped rolling off into the sea ¹¹.

Three eggs from Socorro, sent to the British Museum by Mr. Anthony, are described by Mr. Oates as remarkably pale in colour, the ground being white or very pale cream-colour, with a cluster of rusty-brown spots or blotches at the large end. These brown spots are almost entirely absent from the remainder of the egg, while the pale purple underlying spots are more evenly distributed over the whole shell ¹⁴.

MICRANOUS.

Micranous, Saunders, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, iv. p. xix (1895); Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xxv. p. 143 (1896).

Micranous embraces a small group of Noddy Terns which are of sombre plumage,