

found when it flew against a vertical skylight on the roof of the hotel. The discoverer of the dead tern carried it to the manager of a local gun store who in turn transmitted it to Mr. Stone. It was then mounted by him and during the following years reposed in his private collection in Oswego.

The bird is in typical adult plumage, the few white feathers on the loreal region indicating that the postnuptial molt had occurred. Measurements: wing (extreme terminal portion of outer primaries missing), 11.8 inches; tail (extreme terminal portion of both outer tail-feathers missing), 5.8 inches; bill (exposed culmen), 1.6 inches; tarsus, 0.82 inch; middle toe with claw, 0.95 inch. This specimen has been renovated and remounted and is in a good state of preservation. It now reposes in the zoological exhibit collections of the New York State Museum bearing catalogue number 6170.

So far as I am aware, the Sooty Tern has been recorded from New York State but three times since the publication of Eaton's memoir. Two records are from Long Island, September 21 and December 24, 1928 (Auk, 46: 101, and 247, 1929); one record is for Staten Island, September 23, 1928 (Auk, 46: 102, 1929). All the birds were found dead.—DAYTON STONER, *New York State Museum, Albany, New York*.

Noddy and Sooty Terns nesting on bare ground.—In the latter part of June 1936, as a member of the Florida Audubon Society Expedition to the Dry Tortugas, Florida, I noticed what I believe to be an unusual nesting habit for the Noddy Tern, *Anous stolidus stolidus*. On the extreme east end of Bush Key approximately fifty birds (pairs) were observed to be nesting on the bare coral reefs. No nesting material had been gathered. J. B. Watson in 'Papers from the Tortugas Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington,' vol. 2, 1908, reports that "the statement has been made that the Noddy sometimes lays its eggs directly upon the ground, but this is not quite true for Noddies on Bird Key. Very often the nest has the appearance of being constructed upon the ground, but a closer examination usually shows that it has been built upon a tuft of grass or upon the stem of a bush, the branches of which have been broken off close to the ground." He also states that at no time did he find that eggs had been laid on the bare ground. It is possible that this deviation from the normal nesting habit was due to crowding in the rest of the colony. In subsequent trips to the Tortugas in 1937 and 1938 the Noddies were not observed nesting on bare ground and it was noticed that the population of the Noddy colony had decreased.

In 1937 and 1938 the Sooty Terns, *Sterna fuscata fuscata*, were observed nesting on the bare wood and iron-work of the abandoned coaling docks. The eggs were deposited on the bare surfaces with absolutely no nest material around them.—J. C. DICKINSON, JR., *University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida*.

Bridled Tern in Florida Bay.—On the morning of October 2, 1940, the writer, in company with Edward M. Moore, Audubon representative in the Florida Keys, was patrolling a portion of Florida Bay, Monroe County. While very near Stake (sometimes known as Big Low) Key about six miles northwest of Tavernier, a tern swung in and alighted on the skiff which was towing behind the patrol launch. It sat unconcerned and allowed its picture to be taken from two or three angles. We pulled up the skiff to the launch and one picture was secured at a range of about five feet.

At first glance both of us took it to be a Sooty Tern in the immature plumage but neither of us ever having seen that species in such plumage, we made careful