

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

notes on it for future reference. Since the great nesting colony on the Dry Tortugas was famous Sooty ground, that was the species which naturally came to mind, but the writer has only been in that famous colony at egg-time, never having seen the young birds. Later on, as we came up to Bottlepoint Key some two miles to the eastward, the tern was still with us, and actually allowed us to catch it. It was banded with a no. 4 Survey band of the number 359976, and liberated on Bottlepoint Key. While the bird was in the hand notes were taken on the plumage which is as follows. The forehead and *entire* under parts were pure, snowy white. The top of the head and neck were quite gray and streaked with blackish. The back and wings were a very dark brown. On looking up the Sooty and Bridled Terns in Bent's 'Life Histories of North American Gulls and Terns,' on my return to Charleston, I find that the above description tallies exactly with his account of the Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus melanoptera*). In the immature Sooty, the under parts are a "uniform 'olive brown' shading to grayish white on the belly." Our bird was pure white underneath from bill to, and including, under tail-coverts, and the forehead white as well. This is conclusive.

Howell gives only three records of the Bridled Tern for Florida in his 'Florida Bird Life,' so that this seems well worthy of record. Though not stated definitely, all the previous records seem to have concerned adult specimens. Certainly, in the immature plumage, there is no difficulty in distinguishing the two.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Nat'l. Assoc. Audubon Soc's., Charleston, South Carolina.*

Black Terns nesting in New Brunswick.—On June 20, 1940, accompanied by R. W. Tufts, Chief Federal Migratory Bird Officer for the Maritime Provinces, and John Campbell, game warden, I found two nests of Black Terns (*Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*) in Big Timber Lake, near Sheffield, Sunbury County, New Brunswick. Each nest contained three eggs and was built upon a small mound of vegetation in the shallow lake. As many as seventeen adult terns were counted at one time flying over the lake, indicating the probability of other nests nearby.

This is believed to be the first definite nesting record of this species in New Brunswick although as reported before (Auk, 56: 476, 1939) I had found adult Black Terns in this immediate area on June 14, 1937, on May 26, 1938, and on May 24, 1939. On these dates I was unable to find any nests, partly because of the lack of time available from my waterfowl investigations.—HAROLD S. PETERS, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Charleston, South Carolina.*

Eastern Mourning Dove in the Dominican Republic.—The occurrence of the eastern form of the Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*) in Cuba has been previously reported (Auk, 54: 391, 1937). The basis for that record is the recapture of two birds banded at Key West, Florida.

Upon going through the recovery records for this species in the banding files of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, I discovered another case that should be noted, as it extends considerably the known range of *Z. m. carolinensis*. The bird in question was marked with band no. A-441887 at Gulfport, Florida, on March 30, 1932, by Mrs. Daisy M. Morrison. It was retaken at Santiago, Dominican Republic, about July 25, 1934.

It will be observed that all eastern Mourning Doves thus far reported from the Caribbean region are individuals that were banded in Florida. The cooperators responsible for the banding have, of course, merely listed them as "Mourning Doves" and the subspecific designation is made entirely upon geographic grounds and present knowledge of the range of the three recognized races. Nevertheless,