

8. *Anous stolidus*, Linn.

*Sterna stolidus*, Linn., Syst. Nat., vol. i. p. 227, 1766.

*Anous stolidus*, Gray, List. Gen. Birds, p. 100, 1841; Saunders, Proc. Zool. Soc., 1876, p. 669, et 1877, p. 797.

[Two specimens. Inaccessible Island, near Tristan da Cunha, October 16, 1873. Eyes black. Shot sitting on branches of a tree (*Thylica arborea*).

No. 140, ♂. Raine Island, Australia. Feet, bill, and eyes black.

No. 444, ♀. At sea; lat. 1° N., long. 137° 11' E.

No. 485, ♀. Admiralty Islands, March 3-10, 1875.

No. 564, ♂. At sea, near Tahiti, October 1875.]

In alcohol. Egg, and newly hatched young, St Paul's Rocks, Atlantic, August 28, 1873.

Nine eggs from Raine Island, August 31, 1874.

This is a very interesting series, showing the changes resulting from age, both in the individual and in the annual plumage. The examination of a great number of Noddies from various localities tends to show that specimens in clean and fresh plumage are very rarely to be met with; and the weatherworn appearance of some individuals, when compared with freshly moulted birds, would lead the superficial observer to suppose that he had before him distinct species. The example, No. 564, is an instance of this, it being a superb old bird, freshly moulted, with all the edges of the feathers perfect, the crown of the head of a pale lavender, and with much smoke-colour on the throat, neck, and breast; the primaries and tail-feathers like satin, and having in some cases not quite attained their full length; altogether the finest specimen of the common Noddy I ever saw. Both this and the next species are described in Mr Murray's journal as being very abundant at the Admiralty Islands, hovering in immense numbers over shoals of fish. That the general range of these species is intertropical is tolerably well known; but it is somewhat surprising to find both this and *Anous melanogenys* at Inaccessible Island, close to Tristan da Cunha, in 37° S. latitude, on the peculiar domain of the Albatross and the Penguin. The two examples of *Anous stolidus* from there are absolutely identical with specimens from the Tortugas; and I can find no reason for attributing any of the larger form to other than this species.

9. *Anous melanogenys*, Gray.

*Anous melanogenys*, G. R. Gray, Gen. Birds, vol. iii. p. 661, pl. clxxxii., 1842; Saunders, Proc. Zool. Soc., 1876, p. 670, et 1877, p. 798.

*Anous tenuirostris*, mult. auctorum, nec Temm.

[In alcohol. Adult, young in down, and egg. St Paul's Rocks, Atlantic Ocean.

One specimen. St Paul's Rocks, August 27, 1873.