

the Old World, as well as America, where, however, it is not often noticed on the Pacific coast.

As Mr. Howard Saunders points out, the characters of the genus are somewhat intermediate between those of the Gulls and Terns, and this remark also applies to the eggs.

1. *Gelochelidon anglica*.

Sterna anglica, Mont. Orn. Dict. Suppl. cum fig. ¹; Baird, Brewer, & Ridgway, Water-Birds N. Amer. ii. p. 277 ².

Gelochelidon anglica, Coues, Ibis, 1864, p. 389 ³; Salv. Ibis, 1865, p. 190 ⁴; 1866, p. 199 ⁵; Scl. & Salv. P. Z. S. 1871, p. 572 ⁶; Lawr. Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. no. 4, p. 51 ⁷; Sumichr. La Nat. v. p. 234 ⁸; Saunders, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xxv. p. 25 ⁹; Oates, Cat. Eggs Brit. Mus. i. p. 177 ¹⁰.

Sterna aranea, Dresser, Ibis, 1866, p. 44 ¹¹.

Gelochelidon nilotica, A. O. U. Check-l. N. Amer. Birds, 2nd ed. p. 22 ¹².

Ptil. æstiv. Supra pulchre margaritacea, secundariis intimis et rectricibus albicantioribus; primariis intus cineraceis, rhachidibus albis; pileo toto nigerrimo; loris et facie laterali et corpore subtus toto albis; subalaribus et axillaribus albis, majoribus et remigibus intus margaritaceo-albis: rostro nigro; pedibus brunnescenti-nigris; iride saturate brunnea. Long. tota circa 13·0, alæ 11·8, caudæ 4·7, culm. 1·7, tarsi 1·15. (Descr. maris adulti ex Corpus Christi, Texas. Mus. nostr.)

Ptil. hiem. Supra margaritacea, pileo vix albicantiore; macula anteoculari parva nigra; regione parotica summa schistacea; corpore subtus toto pure albo. Long. tota circa 12·0, alæ 10·7. (Descr. avis adultæ ex Chiapam. Mus. nostr.)

Hab. NORTH AMERICA, chiefly on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the United States, breeding north to New Jersey, and wandering casually to Long Island and Massachusetts ¹².—MEXICO, Matamoros (*Dresser* ^{2 11}), coast of Gulf of Tehuantepec ⁸, San Mateo ⁷ (*Sumichrast*); GUATEMALA, Pacific coast, Chiapam Lagoon (*O. S.* ^{2 3 4 5 9}).—ATLANTIC COAST OF SOUTH AMERICA to Argentina ⁹.—TEMPERATE AND WARM REGIONS OF THE OLD WORLD to Australia (breeding), extending in Africa as far as Fashoda.

This is a bird of very wide distribution, frequenting the sandy shores of the sea-coasts and inland lakes, and breeding throughout the greater part of its habitat.

The Gull-billed Tern has been recorded by Wilson and Audubon as breeding in the salt-marshes of Cape May and at the mouth of the Mississippi, and it is also known to breed as far north as southern New Jersey; but it has not been found nesting in any part of Central America, though eggs have been taken by Gundlach in Cuba ². Mr. Dresser met with the species breeding on Galveston Island in June ¹¹.

In Mexico it was noticed by Sumichrast in the Gulf of Tehuantepec ^{7 8}, and Salvin found it frequenting the lagoon of Chiapam, on the Pacific coast of Guatemala, where, however, it did not congregate in any numbers, two or three only being observed in company ⁴.

The nest is a mere depression scratched in the sand, with sometimes a few straws