

In general habits *S. forsteri* resembles the Common Tern, *S. fluviatilis*, with which it consorts during the breeding-season. Its food consists mostly of small fish.

The nest is built amongst reeds and tussocks, and is often a bulky structure. The eggs are two or three in number, of a pale greyish-green or pale buff, thickly and evenly marked with spots and blotches of dark blackish-brown and underlying pale purple¹¹.

✓2. *Sterna fluviatilis*.

Sterna fluviatilis, Naum. Isis, 1819, pp. 1847, 1848¹; Saunders, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xxv. p. 54²; Oates, Cat. Eggs Brit. Mus. i. p. 182³.

Sterna sp., Coues, Ibis, 1864, p. 389⁴.

Sterna hirundo (nec Linn.), Baird, Brewer, & Ridgway, Water-Birds N. Amer. ii. p. 295⁵; A. O. U. Check-l. N. Amer. Birds, 2nd ed. p. 24⁶.

Ptil. æstiv. Supra margaritaceo-cinerea; collo postico et laterali, uropygio imo et supracaudalibus pure albis; rectricibus quoque albis, vix cinereo extus lavatis, duabus extimis magis distincte extus cinereis; alis dorso concoloribus, remigibus albis, secundariis albo terminatis; primariis albis, extus et intus juxta rhachidem albam cineraceis, et apicem versus intus quoque nigricantibus vel cinerascenti-nigris, pogonio interno minime ad apicem albo marginato; pileo nuchaque haud cristata nigerrimis; loris et facie laterali cum corpore subtus toto, subalaribus et axillaribus et margine alari albis pectore vix margaritaceo-cinereo adumbrato: rostro corallino, ad apicem corneo-brunneo; pedibus corallinis; iride saturate brunnea. Long. tota circa 14.0, alæ 10.4, caudæ 2.5, rectrice extima 5.2, culm. 1.4, tarsi 0.8. (Descr. maris adulti ex Tarpon Springs, Florida. Mus. nostr.)

♀ mari similis. Long. tota circa 12.5, alæ 10.7. (Descr. feminæ adultæ hiem. ex Tarpon Springs. Mus. nostr.)

Ptil. hiem. similis ptilosi æstivæ, sed fronte et pileo albo striolatis.

Av. hornot. similis ptilosi hiemali adultæ; fronte et loris albis; pileo reliquo albo, nigro striato; nucha cum pilei postici lateribus et regione anteoculari nigris; tectricibus alarum minimis nigricantibus. (Descr. av. hornot. ex San José de Guatemala. Mus. nostr.)

Juv. similis præcedenti, sed plumis fascia cinerascenti-brunnea subterminali ornatis vel marmoratis.

Hab. NORTH AMERICA, chiefly east of the Plains, breeding from the Arctic coast, somewhat irregularly, to Florida, Texas, and Arizona, and scarcely known on the Pacific side^{2 6}.—GUATEMALA, San José (*O. S.*^{2 4}).—SOUTH AMERICA, eastern coast to Bahia²; WEST INDIES².—EUROPE AND TEMPERATE ASIA, breeding; INDIA, CEYLON, AND SOUTH AFRICA in winter².

This is the well-known "Common Tern" of Europe, and has an extensive distribution both in the Old and New Worlds. It differs from *S. forsteri* in having the long outer rectrices white, with a darker grey outer web than on the rest of the tail-feathers. The inner webs of the primaries are not white to their extreme ends, and the bill and feet are both red.

A single example of this Tern was obtained by Salvin at San José in Guatemala on the 8th of December, 1862. Its identification puzzled Dr. Elliott Coues, when the specimen was submitted to him in 1864, but Mr. Howard Saunders has since determined that it is a young individual of *S. fluviatilis*².

The species breeds both on the sea-shore and inland in North America, migrating