

4. *Sterna cantiaca*.

Sandwich Tern, Lath. Gen. Syn. iii. 2, p. 356¹.

Sterna cantiaca, Gm. Syst. Nat. i. p. 606²; Scl. & Salv. P. Z. S. 1871, p. 569³; Saunders, Cat.

Birds Brit. Mus. xxv. p. 75⁴; Oates, Cat. Eggs Brit. Mus. i. p. 186⁵.

Thalasseus cantiacus, Lawr. Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. no. 4, p. 51⁶.

Thalasseus cantianus, Sumichr. La Nat. v. p. 234⁷.

Sterna cantiana, Salv. Ibis, 1889, p. 379⁸.

Thalasseus acuflavidus, Salv. Ibis, 1864, pp. 381⁹, 386¹⁰; 1865, p. 190¹¹; 1866, p. 198¹²; Coues, Ibis, 1864, p. 389¹³.

Sterna acuflavida, Lawr. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. ix. p. 210¹⁴.

Sterna sandvicensis acuflavida, Baird, Brewer, & Ridgway, Water-Birds N. Amer. ii. p. 288¹⁵;

A. O. U. Check-l. N. Amer. Birds, 2nd ed. p. 24¹⁶.

Ptil. æstiv. Supra pulchre margaritacea; uropygio, supracaudalibus et rectricibus pure albis; alis dorso concoloribus, secundariis intus et apicem versus albis; primariis cinereis, juxta rhachidem albam nigricantibus vel schistaceo-nigris, intus ad apicem albo marginatis; pileo toto nuchaque nigerrimis, nuchæ cristatæ plumis acuminatis; collo postico et interscapulio summo vix albicantibus; loris et facie laterali dimidiatis et corpore subtus toto pure albis, pectore vix roseo induto: rostro nigro, albo vel flavido terminato; pedibus nigris; iride saturate brunnea. Long. tota circa 16·0, alæ 11·7, caudæ 2·7, rectrice extima 5·2, culm. 2·1, tarsi 0·95. (Descr. maris adulti æstiv. ex Lighthouse Reef. Mus. nostr.)

♀. *Ptil. hiem.* ptilosi æstivæ similis, sed subtus pure alba, minime roseo adumbrata, pileo albo, postice nigro striolato, regione oculari, pilei postici lateribus et nucha cristata nigris. Long. tota circa 15·0, alæ 10·8. (Descr. feminæ adultæ ex Chiapam. Mus. nostr.)

Hab. NORTH AMERICA, South Atlantic and Gulf coasts, north casually to Southern New England^{4 16}.—MEXICO, Gulf of Tehuantepec, San Mateo (*Sumichrast*^{6 7}), Laguna Verde and La Antigua, Vera Cruz (*Trujillo*⁴), Celestin, N. Yucatan (*Schott*¹⁴), Cozumel I. (*Gaumer*^{4 8}); BRITISH HONDURAS, Lighthouse Reef^{3 4}, Saddle Cay⁹, Northern Two Cays⁵ (*O. S.*^{9 10}); GUATEMALA, both coasts¹², Chiapam (*O. S.*^{4 11 13}).—SEAS OF TEMPERATE EUROPE to the Caspian, coasts of Africa in winter, Red Sea east to Persian Gulf and coasts of Sind⁴.

The Sandwich Tern is an inhabitant of Temperate Europe and Western Asia, and is found also in Florida and the Gulf States of North America. By some authorities the American bird is separated as a distinct race, *S. acuflavida*, but Mr. Howard Saunders⁴ considers the European and American birds to be inseparable.

S. cantiaca is distinguishable from *S. dougalli* by its larger size as well as by its black feet and bill; the feathers of the nape are also prolonged and pointed.

This Tern breeds in Florida, and occurs on both coasts of Mexico and Guatemala in winter¹⁶. Salvin met with the species on the islands off the coast of British Honduras^{9 10}, but did not find it breeding.

It is distinctly a sea-bird, rarely nesting at any considerable distance from water⁴. The eggs are two or three in number, laid in a depression in the sand, and are beautifully marked and varied. Mr. Oates states that the ground-colour ranges from