

white, through cream-colour and pale buff, to brownish-buff. The markings are, as a rule, very bold, and consist of spots and blotches of dark brown approaching black, and underlying inky-purple. Some eggs are delicately marked with only small spots; others are marked with huge confluent blotches, measuring quite an inch across, and between these two types every combination occurs ⁵.

✓ 5. *Sterna maxima*.

Hirondelle de mer de Cayenne, Daubent. Pl. Enl. ix. t. 988 ¹.

Sterna maxima, Bodd. Tabl. Pl. Enl. p. 58 ²; Scl. & Salv. P. Z. S. 1871, p. 567 ³; Lawr. Mem. Bost. Soc. N. H. ii. p. 318 ⁴; Boucard, P. Z. S. 1883, p. 462 ⁵; Baird, Brewer, & Ridgway, Water-Birds N. Amer. ii. p. 284 ⁶; Ferrari-Perez, Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus. ix. p. 179 ⁷; Salvin, Ibis, 1889, p. 379 ⁸; A. O. U. Check-l. N. Amer. Birds, 2nd ed. p. 23 ⁹; Saunders, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xxv. p. 80 ¹⁰; Nelson, N. Amer. Fauna, no. 14, p. 24 ¹¹; Oates, Cat. Eggs Brit. Mus. i. p. 187, t. 14. fig. 7 ¹².

Thalasseus maximus, Lawr. Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. no. 4, p. 51 ¹³; Sumichr. La Nat. v. p. 234 ¹⁴.

Sterna galericulata, Licht. Preis-Verz. Mex. Vög. p. 3 ¹⁵; Cab. J. f. Orn. 1863, p. 59 ¹⁶; Finsch, Abhandl. nat. Ver. Bremen, 1879, p. 359 ¹⁷; Saunders, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xxv. p. 81, note ¹⁸.

Sterna regia, Gambel, Journ. Acad. Phil. (2) i. p. 228 ¹⁹; Lawr. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. ix. p. 210 ²⁰; Zeledon, Cat. Aves Costa Rica, 1882, p. 36 ²¹.

Thalasseus regius, Coues, Ibis, 1864, p. 388 ²²; Salv. Ibis, 1864, p. 385 ²³; 1865, p. 190 ²⁴; 1866, p. 199 ²⁵.

Ptil. æstiv. Major; pileo et loris dimidiatim nigris; nuchæ valde cristatæ plumis acuminatis; corpore supra margaritaceo-cinereo; alis caudaque dorso concoloribus, margine carpali albo; collo postico et laterali cum loris dimidiatis, facie laterali et corpore subtus toto pure albis; reatricibus intus albidioribus, longioribus extus albis; primariis intus albis, extus cum area interna juxta rhachidem albam et apicem versus pogonii interni schistaceis vel schistaceo-nigris: rostro aurantiaco-rubro; pedibus nigris; iride saturate brunnea. Long. tota circa 19·5, alæ 15·2, caudæ 3·9, rectrice extima 7·2, culm. 2·55, tarsi 1·3. (Descr. maris adulti ex Chiapam. Mus. nostr.)

Ptil. hiem. ptilosi æstivæ similis, sed fronte et pileo antico albis, hoc nigro maculato; regione oculari et pileo postico cum nucha cristata nigris. Long. tota circa 18·0, alæ 13·8. (Descr. av. hiem. ex Middle Cay. Mus. nostr.)

Hab. NORTH AMERICA, casually northward to Massachusetts and the Great Lakes, California, breeding from Virginia southward ^{9 10}.—MEXICO (*Deppe & Schiede* ^{15 16}), Mazatlan (*Bischoff* ⁴, *Forrer* ¹⁰), Manzanillo, Colima (*Lloyd* ¹⁰), Guaymas (*Palmer* ⁴), Isabella I. (*Grayson* ^{4 17}), Tres Marias Is. (*Nelson* ¹¹), Gulf of Tehuantepec, San Mateo (*Sumichrast* ^{13 14}), Jalapa, Rio Rancho Nuevo, Vera Cruz (*Ferrari-Perez* ^{7 10}), coast of Yucatan, Rio Lagartos ^{5 10}, Cozumel I. ^{8 10} (*Gaumer*), Merida (*Schott* ²⁰); BRITISH HONDURAS, Cays along the coast ⁶, Belize ²², Glover's Reef ²³ (*O. S.*); GUATEMALA, both coasts ^{3 24}, Chiapam ^{22 23} (*O. S.*); HONDURAS (*Dyson* ¹⁰); COSTA RICA (*Zeledon* ²¹).—SOUTH AMERICA, both coasts, south to Santa Catherina and Peru ¹⁰; WEST INDIES ¹⁰.—WEST AFRICA ¹⁰.

The Royal Tern is a denizen of Eastern North America, breeding from Virginia to