

X.—On the Laridæ collected during the Expedition. By HOWARD SAUNDERS,
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(Reprinted from the Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London, 1878.)

At the request of Mr Selater, I have undertaken with much pleasure the determination of the Laridæ collected during the expedition of H.M.S. Challenger, amounting in all to 47 specimens. It was hardly to be expected that amongst these any previously undescribed species would be found; but in consequence of the careful manner in which the specimens have been catalogued and labelled by Mr John Murray, many of them are of great value in increasing our knowledge of the geographical distribution of the Oceanic birds. It is highly desirable that more attention should be devoted to this subject, instead of being limited, as is so often the case, to land-birds only; and of the results which would probably reward such attention we may judge from the present small collection, which contains examples of 9 species, represented by 31 specimens, of Terns (*Sterninæ*), of 5 species, represented by 11 specimens, of Gulls (*Larinæ*), and of 3 species, represented by 5 specimens, of Skua gulls (*Stercorariinæ*); total 17 species, 47 specimens. Of these species, five have been obtained in absolutely new localities (three of them from places where they could hardly be expected to occur), whilst many of the other species derive unusual interest from the fact of their range being restricted to such seldom-visited spots as the rocks and islands of the South Atlantic. On the whole this collection of Laridæ, although small in numbers, is one of the most productive of knowledge which has yet been made by any of our national expeditions.

1. *Hydrochelidon hybrida*, Pallas.

Sterna hybrida, Pall. Zoogr. Rosso-Aa, vol. ii. p. 338, 1811.

Hydrochelidon hybrida, Gray, Gen. B., vol. iii. p. 660; Saunders, Proc. Zool. Soc., 1876; et 1877, p. 794.

[No. 364, ♀. Manila. 11th to 14th January 1875. Eyes black; feet dark red. Stomach had crustacea.]

A nearly adult specimen, the head being slightly streaked with black.

2. *Sterna virgata*, Cabanis.

Sterna virgata, Cabanis, J. f. Orn., 1875, p. 449; Saunders, Proc. Zool. Soc., 1876, p. 646, et 1877, p. 794.

[One specimen marked X on label. }
One specimen marked Θ on label. } Christmas Harbour, Kerguelen Island.