

General Field Notes

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Cayenne Tern at Cape Hatteras, NC

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On 23 September 1994, we observed an adult Cayenne Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis eurygnatha*) at Cape Hatteras point, Dare County, North Carolina. Cayenne Terns, described in detail by Junge and Voous (1955), are usually considered a southern race of Sandwich Tern (*S. sandvicensis*), although the relationship is still unclear (see Buckley and Buckley, 1984). We studied and photographed the bird from 1020-1055 EDT.

Throughout the observation, the bird associated with a small flock of Sandwich and Royal (*S. maxima*) Terns. Initially, the bill size and color caught our attention. The bill was roughly 25% longer than the bills of nearby Sandwich Terns and was distinctly decurved. The bill was dull yellow, with some brighter orange color on the basal third of the bill. Several times during the observation, we thought the bird was slightly larger than a Sandwich Tern, but this difference was slight. The bird otherwise resembled a Sandwich Tern. The white forehead and crown, shaggy, black nape, and white crescent behind the eye indicated the bird was an adult in basic plumage.

There are three subspecies of Sandwich Tern. The nominate race, *sandvicensis*, breeds across Europe and around the Caspian and Black Seas. The North American race, *acuflavida*, breeds in the southeastern U.S. and northern Caribbean. The southern race, *eurygnatha*, breeds in the southern Caribbean and at scattered locations along the Atlantic coast of South America. According to Olsen and Larsson (1995), Caribbean populations of *eurygnatha* are smaller than *acuflavida* but gradually become larger in the southern part of their range. Bill color in *eurygnatha* is highly variable:

Caribbean birds may show considerable black on the bill while all-yellow bills predominate in the southern part of the breeding range in South America (Junge and Voous, 1955). In addition, southern *eurygnatha* have bills that average about 4 mm longer than those of *acuflavida* (Olsen and Larsson, 1995). We therefore concluded this bird was probably from one of the southern South American populations of *eurygnatha* because of the large, all yellow bill and the slightly larger body size. It is also likely that the bird was a male since males have longer bills than females (Junge and Voous, 1955).

This represents the fifth record of Cayenne Tern in North Carolina. The other records are all of single birds from Cape Hatteras: 30 May 1983 (Buckley and Buckley, 1984), 1 September 1986 (*American Birds* 41: 274), 16 August 1988 (*American Birds* 43: 301), and 7 October 1989 (*American Birds* 44: 255).

Acknowledgments

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Literature Cited

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- Junge, G C A, and K H Voous. 1955. The distribution and the relationship of *Sterna eurygnatha* Saunders. *Ardea* 43: 226-247.
- Olsen, K M, and H Larsson. 1995. *Terns of Europe and North America*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ.

Second Confirmed Record of an Ash-throated Flycatcher for North Carolina

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From approximately 0700-0720 EDT on 24-September 1994, the senior author observed a juvenile Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) near the old Coast Guard station at the north end of Pea Island, Dare County,