

England, nor has it ever been observed upon the shores of Europe. Along the coast of Florida, it approaches the shore in the early part of the summer to deposit its eggs in the sand; but the statement of DeKay, that they are hatched in the course of two or three weeks, is certainly incorrect, as no Turtle develops so rapidly. The shortest period of incubation of Turtles' eggs I have ascertained to be about seven weeks. Though regularly brought to our markets in the season, I have failed to obtain mature eggs of this species, and young recently hatched; but Gravenhorst<sup>1</sup> gives a good description of the young, and Audubon a very interesting and full account of the breeding.<sup>2</sup> This species is also reported to occur along the Atlantic coast of Africa, from the Cape of Good Hope to the Cape de Verd Islands; but I have had no opportunity of comparing specimens from these regions. Nor can I give an opinion from personal experience respecting the green Turtles of the Red Sea and of the Indian Ocean. Tschudi states that *Chelonia Mydas* occurs on the coast of Peru; but, as he does not say that he compared it with Atlantic specimens, it may be the following species.

*CHELONIA VIRGATA*, Schw. Without entering into the question of the identity of the green Turtles all over the immense range of the Pacific Ocean,<sup>3</sup> I can state that there occurs, along the coast of California, a species of green Turtles which is entirely distinct from that of the Atlantic, by its more elevated and more arched back, and by the emargination of its sides over the hind limbs. Besides heads and paddles, I am indebted for two perfect specimens of this species to my friend, Th. G. Cary, Jr., of San Francisco, to whom I already owe so many scientific treasures from California. I have thus been able to compare it with the *Chelonia Mydas* of the Atlantic, from which it certainly differs as species. As far as I know, this is the first time that sea Turtles are mentioned from the western shores of North America. Mr. Cary informs me that they are found along the whole southern coast of California. The only doubt I have left in my mind respecting this Pacific green Turtle is, whether it is identical or not with the species described from Malabar and the East Indian Ocean.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Delicim Musei zoologici Vratislaviensis*, Lipsiæ, 1829, fol.

<sup>2</sup> *Ornith. Biogr.* II. p. 370.

<sup>3</sup> Green Turtles are mentioned from the Galapagos, from the whole range of the Polynesian Islands, from New Holland, from the Philippine and Sunda Islands, from the whole eastern coast of Asia as far north as Japan, from the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean, and from the eastern coasts of Africa. But, whether they belong to one and the same species or not, remains to be ascertained by direct comparisons.

<sup>4</sup> These species are described by Duméril and Bibron under the names of *Chelonia maculosa*, Cuv., and *marmorata*, Dum. and Bibr. Cuvier's *Chelonia lacrymata* is referred by them to *Chelonia maculosa*. I am inclined to admit that my California specimens are identical with *Chelonia maculosa*; but I question the specific difference of *Chelonia maculosa*, Cuv., and *Chelonia virgata*, Schw., and therefore refer them under the older name, *Chelonia virgata*, Schw. For reference to these species, see Duméril and Bibron, *Erpét. génér.*, vol. 2, p. 541-546.