

through the kindness of Mr. I. W. P. Lewis. It is found everywhere in the Gulf of Mexico and among the West India Islands, from the Bahamas to Trinidad, and further south along the coast of Guiana and Brazil. The many specimens I have examined leave no doubt in my mind that there exists only one species of this genus in America. But the question now arises, whether the *Caouana* of the Mediterranean is identical with that of America. Unlike *Sphargis*, the *Caouana* is common in Europe; it breeds there as well as in America, and unquestionably is at home in the Mediterranean. It would, therefore, be highly important to ascertain whether the American *Caouana* ever crosses the Atlantic. This is the more desirable, as Valenciennes has described the European *Caouana* as a distinct species, under the name of *Chelonia Pelasgorum*.<sup>1</sup> The more extensive range of this species northward along the coast of the United States, might explain its frequency in the Mediterranean, if the *Chelonia Pelasgorum* is not a different species. If it is distinct, the American species may yet, as do some of the American Birds, occasionally appear in the Mediterranean, and have been confounded with the European species. There are here four possibilities, which render renewed investigations and direct comparisons of European and American specimens very desirable. Either the European *Caouana* has come from America, following the Gulf Stream, in larger numbers than *Sphargis* does, and, settling in Europe, has become as numerous there as it is on the other side of the Atlantic, the reverse course being impossible on account of the direction of the Atlantic currents; or, this species, though identical in Europe and in America, has originated separately in both hemispheres; or, a closer comparison may show that the European and the American are distinct species; or, finally, though the European and the American were distinct species, the American may, nevertheless, occasionally visit the shores of Europe, as *Sphargis* does. There are other reasons which render a direct comparison of the Turtles of this genus from different oceans very desirable. Temminck and Schlegel state,<sup>2</sup> that the *Chelonia olivacea* is the same species as the *Caouana*, which may wander as far as New Holland and Japan. Such an ubiquitous occurrence of this species can hardly be admitted without more stringent evidence than that alluded to by them, especially when such a mode of distribution runs directly against the well-known direction of the oceanic currents.

Audubon states, that the Loggerhead, *Caouana*, feeds mostly on large conchshells. The young of this species, about which more may be found in the following section, are figured in Pl. 6, fig. 13 to 32, and the eggs, which are more fully described in the Third Part of this work, are represented in Pl. 7, fig. 30.

<sup>1</sup> Expédition scientifique de la Morée, Paris, 1840. fol.

<sup>2</sup> Fauna japonica, Chelonii, p. 26.