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seem most important in individual recognition. Occasionally adults feed a chick other than their own. Chicks first fly when about 8 weeks old and leave the colony soon after that.

The ground and aerial displays of Sooty Terns are similar to those of other *Sterna* terns, especially the Common Tern. The rarity of the low flight and courtship feeding, both of which are common in other terns, may be due to the different way in which Sooties carry food and the distance they travel to forage.

Sooty Terns have a lower clutch size, longer period of development of the chick, and first breed when older than most other terns, many of which feed in marshes and coastal waters. These characteristics of Sooty Tern breeding biology are similar to those of many other pelagic birds. A distant food supply and high adult survivorship apparently have contributed to these differences from other terns.

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INTRODUCTION

In the recent resurgence of work on seabirds, one species that has received considerable attention is the Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*), an extremely abundant bird of tropical and subtropical marine habitats. Recent studies show that Sooties follow a nonannual breeding cycle at some localities (Chapin, 1954; Ashmole, 1963), that perhaps they fly continuously for months on end (Ashmole, 1963), and that juveniles undertake a long migration (Robertson, 1969). Such tantalizing bits of information suggest that further studies of this species would be rewarding.