

number of nest sites, but deferred maturity could reduce this competition as has already been discussed.

Some pelagic species can raise more than one young (see Harris, 1970), suggesting that food is not entirely limiting, but so far the problem has been following the survival of these "twins" until they return to breed.

Thus Sooty Terns differ from most other terns. Many of these differences derive from their adaptations to a pelagic environment. The basic behavioral patterns in pair formation and courtship show clearly that Sooties are closely related to typical *Sterna* terns such as *hirundo*.

I believe several behavioral differences between Sooties and most other species of *Sterna* are due to their different ways of carrying food. Sooties do not have a well-developed low flight display, a display in which other terns often carry a fish prominently in their bill. Other terns also may carry a fish openly in the bill during the high flight while Sooties do not, although they do have a well-developed high flight.

The high cost of obtaining food, compared to that of coastal feeding terns, perhaps explains why courtship feeding is relatively rare in Sooty Terns. A coastal feeding tern can easily replace the food it feeds to another bird in courtship. For a Sooty Tern, replacement might require a long flight. I have no information as to whether courtship feeding is important in providing food resources for the female prior to egg-laying. I had too few birds marked to obtain good information on whether she spends some time away from the colony prior to egg-laying, but it is possible that she does so and thus is not dependent on food from the male.

Comparison of the breeding biology of Sooties and coastal feeding terns shows other differences. The development of the Sooty Tern egg and chick is much slower than that of most other terns, perhaps so their young can survive lengthy periods when the parents are unable to find food. The high survivorship of adults and the distant food supply have led to their delayed maturity and small clutch size.

Thus in their breeding biology, with a long incubation and fledging period, deferred maturity, and a 1-egg-clutch, Sooty Terns resemble other pelagic birds such as the albatrosses, shearwaters, and tropicbirds more closely than most other terns.

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