

## Age categories P1 - P7 of Sooty Tern chicks on Ascension Island South Atlantic

The following images show the age and plumage development of Sooty Tern chicks.



P1. *Downy* – chick covered with down 0-10 days



P2. *Small Wings* – scapular feathers appear 9-20 days





P3. *Head Moulting* – feathers appear on the crown, mantle and breast 19-29 days



P4. *Down on Face* – down restricted to face, lower belly and rump 28-36 days



P5. *Tail cocked* – tail coverts grow and tail appears “cocked” 36-43 days



P6. *Short Tail* – rectrices all about same length, wings <200mm 42-50 days



P7. *Tail forked* - outer rectrices considerably longer than inner, wings >200mm 50-65 days