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THE ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii gracilis* BREEDING ON THE NORTHERN GREAT BARRIER REEF QUEENSLAND

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In the tropical environment on the northern Great Barrier Reef, Queensland, Roseate Terns *Sterna dougallii* laid eggs from November to January. The average clutch size was 1.6. This did not vary significantly in the three breeding seasons from 1983 to 1986. Adults fed their young predominantly silver, schooling bait-fish from 25 mm to 125 mm in length. Feeding rates increased in two breeding seasons to compensate for smaller prey sizes available in these seasons. Pre-fledging survival rates of chicks were extremely low in breeding seasons when feeding rates were high. Survival of chicks was generally low.