



Gannet Fact Sheet 5

Migration

During their first winter, young Gannets migrate south for huge distances – the furthest Northern Gannet has been seen as far south as Ecuador! In their second year, birds return back to the colony they were born in and often return back later than the mature birds and form a small sub-colony known as a 'Club'. These birds are quite obvious as they don't have their full adult plumage and still have a number of black juvenile feathers. After this they will migrate south again but for a much shorter distance than in their first winter.



After the breeding season in late October the adults spread out over a wide area where they spend their winters alone but they don't travel much further than 1000miles away from their breeding colony. It is unknown if birds from the same colony all go to the same wintering areas. Most adults migrate to the west of the Mediterranean and others follow the African Atlantic coastline flying over land as little as possible.