



Nesting

Albatrosses return to the island where they were born to meet other albatrosses. They often choose a nest site very close to their *natal* (birth) nest. Both parents share in the care of their egg and chick. As one albatross *incubates* the egg (keeps the egg warm so it can develop and hatch), the other flies far out to sea

for food. In between, they also *preen* (straighten and clean their feathers), talk to their egg, and cuddle with their mate.

I move our egg gently with my beak and then settle back down, wriggling my body to nestle the egg beneath my warm belly. I reach for a beakful of damp sand and press it in along the rim of the nest, and then tuck in a few dry strands from a nearby clump of bunchgrass.

I am dozing when I feel the air go “swoosh” right next to me. I open my eyes to see my mate, Kumukahi! He leans towards me and we touch bills. He preens the feathers on my head. I tilt my head so he can scratch the itchy places. He sits next to me, very close. It is his turn to care for our egg! – Mālie

Even when it's stormy, or if a predator is nearby, albatrosses stay on their nests.

