## RECOGNITION OF NEST PREDATOR SPECIES AND INDIVIDUALS BY COMMON TERNS

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Differential responses of common terns (*Sterna hirundo*) to predatory and nonpredatory birds were studied in a salt marsh island colony during the summers of 1996 and 1997. Terns responded to known nest predators with upflights and aggressive antipredator behavior, and largely ignored other species. A pair of great black-backed gulls (*Larus marinus*) nested on the island in both years, and terns responded to this species more frequently than to other gull species. Evidence for individual recognition of this pair of great black-backed gulls was also found. Terns responded more frequently to this pair than to other great black-backed gulls, and a greater proportion of these responses were aggressive. Common terns can therefore learn which species and individuals are a threat to their young and eggs. If nest predators are not a threat to adults, then fear responses habituate and adult terns are more aggressive in their nest defense.