

# Seabirds

## Noio or Black Noddy

*Anous minutus*

### **SPECIES STATUS:**

State recognized as indigenous

Moderate Concern – NAWCP

Hawai'i Natural Heritage Ranking G5-Secure

### **SPECIES INFORMATION:**

The Black Noddy is a medium-sized, dark brown seabird with a white cap. Seven subspecies of the Black Noddy are generally recognized, of which two, *A. s. melanogenys* (Main Hawaiian Islands) and *A. s. marcusii* (Northwestern Hawaiian Islands), are found in the Hawaiian Archipelago. The Black Noddy breeds in colonies in tropical waters, and like many seabirds, lays a single egg. This species retains its territory from year to year, and often reuses the same nest. The Black Noddy feeds off surface fish, foraging over schools of predatory fish located nearshore.

### **DISTRIBUTION:**

Breeds in the Hawaiian Archipelago on all the NWHI and on coastal cliffs and offshore islets of the Main Hawaiian Islands, including Moku Manu. Worldwide, the Black Noddy breeds on a few islands off the Pacific, Caribbean, and Atlantic coast of Central and north South America and on most island groups in the tropical Pacific Ocean. Most populations remain at the breeding colony year-round, but long-distance migration has been reported.

### **ABUNDANCE:**

An estimate of the worldwide population is 1,000,000 to 1,500,000 pairs of birds. There are an estimated 10,000 to 20,000 breeding pairs in the Hawaiian Archipelago, with more than half of these located in the NWHI, including 5,000 pairs on Nihoa.

### **LOCATION and CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT:**

**Terrestrial:** In Hawai'i, the Black Noddy has also been observed to nest on ledges and crevices of coastal cliffs and caves and in ironwood trees. In other locations, the Black Noddy typically builds nests in trees, shrubs or low herbaceous plants out of available material, including seaweed, grass, leaves, and feathers.

**Marine:** Nearshore waters

### **THREATS:**

- Introduced predators (rats, cats, dogs)
- Native predators (Great Frigatebird, Laysan Finch, and shorebirds in NWHI)
- Habitat destruction (by wind, storm, humans, invasive species)
- Human disturbance (kayak/zodiac tours of sea cave nesting sites)
- Nearshore pollution: oil spills, waste

**CONSERVATION ACTIONS:**

- Eradication and control of introduced predators at current and potential nesting sites
- Eradication and control of habitat altering invasive species (including golden crown-beard and scale insects) at current and potential nesting sites
- Continued protection of existing wildlife sanctuaries and refuges

**MONITORING:**

- Monitor recovery of species post management actions

**RESEARCH PRIORITIES:**

- Banding studies to determine amount and pattern of movements
- Long-term population studies to determine demographic characteristics
- Population census
- Determine source of oil for oiled birds found in NWHI
- Determine impact of recreational activities (kayaking) on bird populations

**References:**

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