

# Seabirds Noio Koha or Brown Noddy

*Anous stolidus*

## **SPECIES STATUS:**

State recognized as indigenous  
Not currently at Risk – NAWCP  
Hawai'i Natural Heritage Ranking G5-Secure

**SPECIES INFORMATION:** The Brown Noddy is a medium-sized, dark brown seabird with a white forehead, slender wings and a wedge-shaped tail. Five subspecies of the Brown Noddy are generally recognized, of which one, *A. s. pileatus*, is found in Hawai'i. The Brown Noddy breeds in colonies in tropical waters, and like many seabirds, lays a single egg. When not breeding, the Brown Noddy flies over the ocean, roosting occasionally on water, rocks, islets, and the backs of sea turtles. The Brown Noddy feeds off surface fish and squid, often found in association with tuna schools, catching them by surface-seizing or dipping.

**DISTRIBUTION:** Breeds in the Hawaiian Archipelago from Kure Atoll in the NWHI to the Main Hawaiian Islands, including Moku Manu, Manana, and other islets off windward coasts of the Main Hawaiian Islands. Worldwide, the Brown Noddy typically breeds in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans within 30 (degrees) of the equator. The nonbreeding range is not well-known.

## **ABUNDANCE:**

An estimate of the worldwide population is 500,000 to 1,000,000 pairs of birds. The estimated population found in the Hawaiian Archipelago is approximately 112,000 pairs of birds, with the largest documented colonies on Kaula (15,000 to 25,000 pairs) and Nihoa (25,000 to 35,000 pairs).

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

**Terrestrial:** The Brown Noddy breeds on small islands or islets, using a wide variety of nesting locations, including the ground, trees, shrubs, cliffs and human-made structures. In Hawai'i, observed nests are predominantly on the ground in the open or under vegetation, or on human-made objects. **Marine:** Pelagic

## **THREATS:**

- Introduced predators (rats, cats, rabbits, mongoose);
- Native predators (Black-crowned Night Heron, Great Frigatebird, Nihoa Finch, Laysan Finch)

## **CONSERVATION ACTIONS:**

- Eradication and control of introduced predators at current and potential nesting sites;

- Continued protection of existing wildlife sanctuaries and refuges

**MONITORING:**

- Monitor the recovery of the species post-predator eradication

**RESEARCH PRIORITIES:**

- Long-term studies of populations at locations across range;
- Surveys to determine population size and status

**References:**

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