

Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus*



Folk Name: Noddy Tern

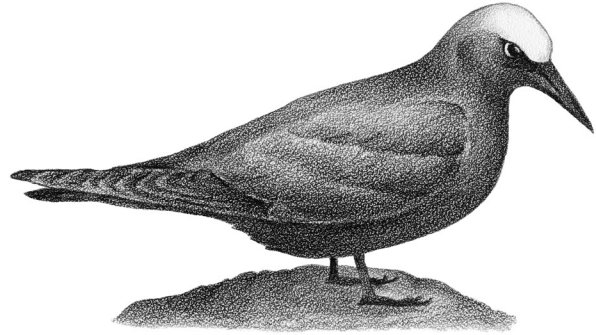
Status: Migrant

Abundance: Accidental

Habitat: Open water

The Brown Noddy is a dark tern with white on top of its head. The “Noddy Tern” is usually found in tropical regions where it is dispersed around the globe, although it occasionally strays into the Carolinas. There were 10 records (3 specimens and 7 sight reports) of Brown Noddy published in South Carolina during the twentieth century. There have been 2 records (1 specimen collected and 1 sight report) in that state since. There have been at least a dozen reports from North Carolina since the first “exhausted” bird was found at Fort Caswell on August 29, 1949. Almost all of these records are associated with the presence of tropical storms, and with the exception of the following sighting, all were found off shore or were birds seen along the coast.

We have a single record of a Brown Noddy for the Central Carolina region. On September 23, 1989, David Wright was scouring Lake Norman for rarities, just after the passage of Hurricane Hugo, when he spotted a trio



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of Brown Noddies at the Cowan’s Ford Dam. Wright “saw the birds flying past him at close range for about 40 seconds. He noted the white cap, brown plumage, and long pointed tail (never spread to see the wedge shape).” His report was later published as the first inland record for North Carolina. This Mecklenburg County sighting is the only instance of a Brown Noddy ever reported inland in either of the Carolinas.