



COMMONWEALTH of the  
NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS

- Farallon de Pajaros (Uracas)
- Maug
- Asuncion

• Agrihan

• Pagan

• Alamagan

• Guguan

• Sarigan

• Anatahan

• Farallon de Medinilla

• Saipan

• Tinian

• Agulguan

• Rota

\* Distribution in the CNMI



PHOTOS BY SCOTT VOGT



NATIVE SEABIRDS

# NODDIES of the CNMI

Fahang dikike'/dankolo  
*Black / Brown Noddy, Chamorro*

Rees / She'e'lap  
*Black / Brown Noddy, Carolinian*

## IDENTIFICATION

Noddies are dark seabirds with light foreheads and crowns. The Black noddy is smaller, darker and has a longer, thinner, bill than the Brown noddy. Like other seabirds, they drink saltwater and have a special gland that gets rid of the excess salt.

## HABITAT and FEEDING

Noddies are found on tropical islands throughout the world. They do not migrate but stay near their home islands where they breed and roost. Noddies like to nest on offshore islets and stacks of rocks where they are protected from predators and human depredation.

They feed offshore over large schools of fish and squid. They skim over the surface of the water, snatching up their prey in flight. While out at sea, they often rest by perching on a floating log or buoy.

## REPRODUCTION

The name "noddy" comes from the male's habit of bobbing his head at a female when it is time to mate. Courtship feeding is performed after the female begs the male for food. Then, courtship flights occur where fish are transferred to each other.

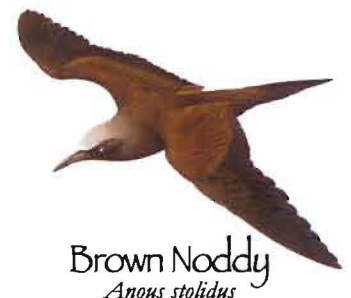
One or two brown eggs are laid in a nest on the ground or in a tree. Nests are built from grasses, leaves, or twigs. Noddies like to nest on offshore islets and stacks of rocks where they are protected from predators. Parents take turns incubating the eggs for over thirty days. Chicks are covered with grayish down and will often eat their weight in fish every day. Parents protect their young carefully and will even attack people who come too close to the nest.

## THREATS and CONSERVATION

Commercial and recreational fisheries are threats to noddies. Many noddies are caught while trying to steal bait off long lines of hooks. Others are trapped inside of trawl nets, gillnets and by offshore trollers. Over fishing impacts seabird populations, as they must fly further from shore to search for food.

Predators and habitat alteration are other threats to noddies. Rats and predatory birds feed on the eggs of noddies. Habitats may be altered due to development, pollution and/or military operations.

Noddies of the CNMI are protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. It is illegal to hunt, kill or possess these birds or their eggs without a permit issued by the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife.



Brown Noddy  
*Anous stolidus*



ARTIST  
DOUGLAS  
PRATT

Black Noddy  
*Anous minutus*

## FISH FINDER

Fishermen like to follow noddies because they follow schools of small fish and squid ... that's where the big fish like tuna and mahi can be found.

**FACTOID!**



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