

GENERAL NOTES

A Tern New to the United States.—On 13 July 1960 banders working in the well-known ternery at Bush Key, Dry Tortugas, Florida, collected an "unusual looking" noddy that proved to be *Anoüs tenuirostris*. Apparently it is the first example of the small, dark noddies of pantropical seas to be obtained within the A.O.U. Check-list area. The specimen was a male with skull fully ossified and testes measuring 2 x 1 and 1 x 1 millimeters. It had no fat, and its stomach was empty. Scattered, new feathers were evident on the head and body and in the wing and tail coverts. The remiges and rectrices showed little wear but were not freshly molted. Measurements were: total length in the flesh, 348; wing arc, 215; tail, 112; exposed culmen, 40. The iris was brown, the bill and feet black. The skin has been deposited in the collection of the Division of Birds, United States National Museum (catalog No. 472493).

The bird was originally located by Charles A. Sutherland, who, with Warren Y. Brockelman, was recording calls of Sooty Terns (*Sterna fuscata*) and Brown Noddies (*Anoüs stolidus*) for the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University. It was roosting with 20 or more Brown Noddies on a small, dead tree near the south shore of Bush Key. At close range its sooty-black rather than brownish body, whiter crown, more slender bill, and much smaller bulk were easily seen. The writers made a tentative identification, and ultimately the bird was captured in a mist net. Its collection spurred a closer examination of noddies without result until the evening of 17 July when Mr. Brockelman found another Black Noddy perched on the same snag. This individual was observed at length by him, Mr. Sutherland, Betty Robertson, and two of the writers. It appeared identical to the one collected and could be followed on the wing among the swarms of Brown Noddies by its lighter, more erratic flight.

The smaller, dark noddies have been regarded as two species, *A. minutus* and *A. tenuirostris* (Peters, 1934). Morphological differences between them are slight, and the ranges apparently do not overlap, *tenuirostris* replacing *minutus* in the Indian Ocean. We follow Moynihan's (1959) conclusion that only one species need be recognized, *tenuirostris* having priority.

The species occurs nearly world wide in warmer seas, but is absent from most of the Atlantic Ocean north of the equator and most of the Caribbean Sea. The subspecies *atlanticus* breeds on islands in the tropical and subtropical South Atlantic (Murphy, 1936) and perhaps also on islands in the Gulf of Guinea (Bannerman, 1931). In the Caribbean the species is represented by the subspecies *americanus*, which was long known only from Southwest-of-all Cay (now called Southwest Cay), an island on Glover's Reef off the central coast of British Honduras. Salvin (1864) found a breeding colony of the Black Noddy there 12 May 1862. Several other ornithologists have visited the locality, but all published references to occurrence of the species in British Honduras appear to be based upon Salvin's account or specimens that he collected (Stephen M. Russell, *in litt.* 1 November 1960). Its present status on the British Honduran cays is uncertain. Bond (1954: 6) was told that colonies of noddies on Southwest Cay "had greatly diminished in size." Russell (*in litt.*) suspects that Black Noddies may no longer nest there because he found none 26 April 1956 and E. R. Blake and C. T. Agostini found none 29 May–1 June 1935.

In more recent years the Black Noddy has been reported from several islands of the southern Caribbean. All of these records are presented under "*Anoüs minutus*

americanus," although one (El Soldado Rock, Trinidad) rests upon the identification of a single egg (Belcher and Smooker, 1935: 296), apparently the egg of a Brown Noddy (Bond and Ripley, 1960), and another (Lac, Bonaire) solely upon a color photograph (Voous, 1957: 152). Definite evidence of occurrence is available for the Venezuelan islands, where specimens have been taken on several islets of the archipelagos of Los Roques (Phelps and Phelps, 1959) and Las Aves (Gines and Yopez T., 1960). The belief that the Black Noddy breeds on Los Roques has now been confirmed (Bond and Ripley, *loc. cit.*). Murphy (1936: 1160) listed "Mauve Noire" as a vernacular name applied to the Black Noddy "in the French West Indies." There is no verified West Indian record (Bond, 1956: 62), however, the name perhaps pertaining to *A. stolidus*.

It was thought likely that the Black Noddies at Dry Tortugas would belong to the subspecies *americanus*, but, surprisingly, the specimen proved referable to *atlanticus* (H. G. Deignan, *in litt.* 28 September and 6 October 1960). Vagrants of this race have reached the West African coast (Bannerman, *loc. cit.*), but it is apparently not otherwise known north of its northernmost breeding stations at St. Paul Rocks and Fernando Noronha. Moreover, the equatorial populations tend to be sedentary (Murphy, 1936). The presence of at least two individuals at Dry Tortugas thus seems most remarkable. It is barely possible, however, that the species has been overlooked in the West Indies and that careful inspection of colonies of *A. stolidus* would be rewarding.

Eisenmann (1955) recommended "White-capped Noddy" as the English name for *Anous minutus*. The name Black Noddy has been as widely used (Murphy, *loc. cit.*; Hellmayr and Conover, 1948; Moynihan, *loc. cit.*) and seems preferable in a descriptive sense. With the present record the A.O.U. *Check-list's* (1957) vernacular name for *A. stolidus*, "Noddy Tern," should become Brown Noddy.

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—WILLIAM B. ROBERTSON, JR., *Region One, National Park Service, Homestead, Florida*; DENNIS R. PAULSON, *Department of Zoology, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida*; and, C. RUSSELL MASON, *Florida Audubon Society, Maitland, Florida*.

Records of Two Migrant Waterfowl for Puerto Rico.—On 21 December 1960 a Fulvous Tree Duck, *Dendrocygna bicolor helva*, sex undistinguishable, was shot out of a flock estimated at 20 birds by a local hunter, Mr. J. R. Ortega. The ducks were flying over Fuertes Swamp, Loiza Aldea, in northeastern Puerto Rico. Measurements were as follows: length of bill from nostril—32.0 mm. and length of closed wing (chord)—224.0 mm. The skin is now part of the avian collection at this institution, catalog number 1543. According to Bond (*Check-list of the Birds of the West Indies*, 1956, p. 19) only two specimens of this tree duck have been reported previously from the West Indies, one from Cuba and one from Bermuda.

On 17 December 1960 an adult, female, Hooded Merganser, *Lophodytes cucullatus*, was collected at Boquerón in southwestern Puerto Rico. Measurements secured on this waterfowl are: length of bill from nostril—29.1 mm., length of closed wing (chord)—175.6 mm., and length of crest—53.9 mm. This skin is now in the avian collection of this institution, catalog number 1544. There are records from three West Indian islands between November and December. Bond (p. 25 and *First Suppl.*, 1956, p. 2) mentions records from Cuba, where it is considered to be a rare winter resident, an accidental record from St. Croix, Virgin Islands, and a record of one female taken at Martinique, French West Indies.

The writers are of the opinion that the overly severe winter of 1960 in North America was an important factor that may have caused the extreme southern movement in the Antilles of the above species of ducks.—VIRGILIO BIAGGI, JR. and FRANCIS J. ROLLE, *Biology Department, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico*.

Yellow-nosed Albatross off the Coast of Long Island, New York.—Albatrosses are accidental in the North Atlantic Ocean. Only the Yellow-nosed Albatross (*Diomedea chlororhynchos*) and the Black-browed Albatross (*D. melanophris*) are known to have occurred in these waters. Off the North American coast only the Yellow-nosed Albatross has been recorded, and then but three times: September 1884 and 1 August 1913 (Murphy, *Oceanic Birds of South America*, 1: 523, 1936), and 23 July 1934 (Norton, *Auk*, 51: 507-508, 1934) and (Palmer, *Maine Birds*, pp. 28-29, 1949). These occurrences were based on specimens. The present record is the fourth off continental North America and the first for New York state. Within the past two years there have been several unconfirmed sight reports of this species off the east coast of the United States.

On the afternoon of 29 May 1960 an adult Yellow-nosed Albatross was observed and photographed approximately three kilometers (two miles) off Jones Beach, Long Island, New York. The bird was discovered resting on the water in the