

# LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

## REPORT FORM

**English and Scientific names:** Brown Noddy, *Anous stolidus*

**Reporting observer and city/state address**

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**Other observer(s) with:** Paul Conover, Lynn Hathaway, Marybeth Lima, Mac Myers, Van Remsen

**Original Observers:** n/a

**This sighting:** 09/09/2023, approx. 1230 h. Location: 28° 15.495, 88° 33.188, or about 60 miles south of South Pass.

**Details:** See <https://ebird.org/checklist/S149555970>

An all-dark-brown tern, with an extensive white cap grading into a dingy nape, thin white eye-arcs; upper flight feathers nearly black, contrasting with mantle, with some white feather shafts in primaries. Approximately SOTE size. Tail very long and held open and spread or tapered to a point, unlike the deeply or shallowly forked tails of other terns. Long, dark bill, dark eye. Very distinctive.





Photos by DPM.

**Media:** Eagle Optics 10x50. Canon R6, 100-400 F5-6.8 lens.

**Discussion:** We were aboard the Calcutta Gold on Segment 6 of our trip. We had reached our farthest point offshore, about 69 miles from the South Pass Jetties on what we determined was the edge of the Loop Current. Depth was about 6000'. Featureless blue water. Seas under 1'. Scattered clouds, low 90s, light n winds. After circling the Ocean Blackhornet and BP Thunderhorse drill ships, we began heading north toward South Pass, where

we encountered the BRNO. As had been happening all day, soaring Sooty Terns attracted us to an area with shearwater flocks loafing and feeding. Paul and I were near the bow of the boat, Van and Mac amidship, and Marybeth and Lynn aft. I think they were concentrating on the birds off our starboard, and Paul and I were looking ahead and to port.

Paul called my attention to a suspicious tern flying across the bow well ahead of us. We followed its progress and Paul saw it apparently land on the water among terns and shearwaters. After a few minutes looking at all the shearwaters loafing on the water near us, we began to head towards the suspicious tern. The noddy then appeared flying past us bow to stern when we got the first photos. The captain reversed course and paths and we got additional views and photos before the bird also reversed course and left us behind.

I have seen Brown Noddies breeding at Pigeon Keys in the Bay Islands of Honduras, briefly in flight off the Yucatan and most recently in Pensacola Beach as Hurricane Ida came ashore to the west.

**Date of report:** 12/10/2023

**May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page?** Yes

**If yes, may we include your name with the report?** Yes

David P. Muth