

YOUR NAME	Sally Hill
YOUR EMAIL	1sallyhill.9@gmail.com
BIRD IDENTIFICATION	Brown Booby
DATE(S) OF OBSERVATION	January 2, 2022
TIME OF DAY	10:30 AM
LOCATION	North Jetty Siuslaw River, Lane County.
LIGHTING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS	Clear, and sunny. Rough seas with big chop from King tide.
DETAILS	<p>Diane Pettey and I were doing a sea watch from the north jetty, when Diane called out that she thought she had a Booby, a second later she said, "yes, it is a Brown Booby"! She got me on the bird which was actively diving and flying over the mouth of the river between the jetties as well as the south jetty. I observed a large brown seabird with long pointed wings. Brown head, wings and back with white under wing coverts. Bright yellow bill was noticeable along with the brown neck and breast with a noticeable demarcation between the brown chest and white belly. We watched it for about an hour. I was using a KOWA TSN 884 scope. It was actively flying and feeding the entire time we watched it. It is possible that this is the same individual that was present in Coos county last fall, however Tim Rodenkirk mentioned that this booby had not been seen since December 16th. Diane managed to get a few photos. I believe Daniel Farrar and Rachael Friese were able to observe this bird as well.</p>
DO YOU HAVE ANY PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS SPECIES?	Yes, all of my previous sightings have been along the Oregon Coast and all have been perched birds.
SIMILAR SPECIES	I believe the the dark brown uppers and white belly separate the Brown Booby from the other Booby species.
DO YOU HAVE PHOTOS?	Yes







BRBO-2022-25 (Brown Booby)
1st round voting – May 10, 2022

Accepted: 9
Not Accepted: 0

ACCEPTED, verified

Good description and somewhat distant but diagnostic photos rule out any other booby species.

The photos definitely leave something to be desired, but show the diagnostic brown head, dark dorsal side, and white belly and underwing of BRBO and eliminate other species of boobies. One has to wonder if this is the Coos Bay bird.

No comments

The photos don't offer high resolution, but I think that they provide sufficient detail to eliminate other species of booby including juvenile Masked Booby. The bird has a very sharp demarcation between the brown coloration on the upper breast and the white coloration on the lower breast and belly.

The description is sufficient to identify this bird as a Brown Booby, and the photos are confirmative: dark upperparts and hood, sharp demarcation from dark to white at mid-breast, pointed wings, long pointed bill, and body shape are distinctive for this species.

Photos just sufficient to eliminate a juvenile Masked or Nazca Booby. The white on the underwings appears to be limited to the inner half of the wing and the sharply demarcated brown hood extends down onto the upper breast giving the hood the classic Brown Booby shape rather than the more limited brown hood of a juvenile Masked or Nazca Booby.

Between the photos and the descriptions, I feel there's enough there to eliminate similar booby species. The yellow bill, not really discernible in the photos but mentioned in the written report, would eliminate a Blue-footed Booby. The dark underside to the primaries and secondaries eliminates a 1st year Masked/Nazca Booby. Everything seems to add up to a Brown Booby.

white belly and wing sharply contrasting. photos look good

Photos appear to definitively show a Brown Booby. Although it's possible this could be the same bird as was in Coos County, I feel that in the absence of any actual evidence for that we should treat it as a separate record.

No comments

Photos rule out other booby species.