

YOUR NAME	Kyle Landstra
YOUR EMAIL	kylelandstra@gmail.com
BIRD IDENTIFICATION	Brown Booby
DATE(S) OF OBSERVATION	10/24/2022
TIME OF DAY	11:34 AM
LOCATION	The bird was found Portland, OR at the most northwestern tip of Kelley Point Park by Ross Barnes-Rickett
LIGHTING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS	Gloomy and sprinkling rain, cool temps
DETAILS	The bird was all brown above with a brown bib and clean demarcation between bib and white belly. The head was all brown and had a large pale bill. The bird was resting on the anchor chain of a large cargo ship, Adelante. Within the first 30 minutes of arriving
DO YOU HAVE ANY PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS SPECIES?	I saw the one in Coos County in December of 2021.
SIMILAR SPECIES	Ruled out juvenile Masked Booby with the dark brown bib on the breast. Ruled out juvenile Blue-footed Booby and juvenile Red-footed Booby with the pale bill and dark, defined bib on the breast.
DO YOU HAVE PHOTOS?	Yes

Found by Ross Barnes-Rickett on the morning of 10/24/22. It is assumed that the bird was ship-assisted into Portland from the ocean. In my opinion it is not clear if the bird came in on the ship Adelante or any other ship with the amount of traffic in that area of the Columbia River. The ship information could all be found on Vesselfinder.com. On that website it listed destination information regarding location, date, and time as well as nearly real-time coordinates which seemed to update every few minutes or so. The profile for the ship said it's destination was Kalama, WA port on 10/17/22, yet was still stationed at the confluence of the Columbia River on 10/24/22. Unfortunately you have to pay to get more information on port calls and timing of historical destinations on Vesselfinder.com, but if the ship had been at the confluence of the Columbia by 10/17/22 and the bird did in fact arrive on that ship then there is a chance that the bird was there for much longer. If not, it is possible it came in on another ship and was here for an even shorter time. This is all

speculation, but thought it would be interesting to ponder and share.

Now to the other topic related information that is more pertinent to it being an Oregon record: the bird's location. At the time of viewing the bird was on the front right corner of the ship and the ship was at approximately 45.666990, -122.766730 (per

Vesselfinder.com <https://www.vesselfinder.com/>) which placed it right behind the Washington state line. I believe these coordinates are of the control tower from the ship when looking at Vesselfinder data. When looking at the coordinates of the front right of the ship it was about 45.665570, -122.766170. Oddly enough there is a ship that is parked in the exact same spot when looking at satellite view of Google Maps which led me to believe that these coordinates were correct. When using the likely crude coordinates and tools of Google Maps and using a right angle to the state line of Oregon it seems to be about 350 ft from the starboard side of the ship. Looking at it as a number on it's own, that seems like a lot, but realizing the width of the Columbia in that area and the massive size of the ship itself makes it a lot smaller of a distance to cover if the bird decided to fly (which it did, observed at least three times I believe, once by me). Utilizing those same tools, the width of the Columbia is at least 2,800 ft wide there and the width of the ship was about 100 ft and was about parallel to the state line which means a little over 3 ships width over and the bird was in Oregon. Putting this into perspective, we were viewing the bird from about a mile away. What a Herculean feat by Ross, holy cow!

Within the first 30 minutes I had arrived I was viewing the bird with Audrey Addison, Nicole McCormick, Mattie, and Nick Mrvelj when we started seeing commotion at the front of the ship. Audrey and I got on it and we had thought “jaeger?!?!” with the shape and behavior of the bird, but soon got our wits about us to realize it was in fact a Peregrine Falcon harassing the Brown Booby. I had only seen one Peregrine at the time, but not much later it flew past with second in tow. At this point the Brown Booby was flying about near the front of the ship and then eventually started flying in large circles and flew down river a bit. We were able to view it in flight with it's distinct (at least in Portland...) torpedo look and long pointed wings. Taking into account the aforementioned measurements and going back and forth with the crew viewing it at the time it was agreed that with how much distance it made between the ship, flying directly towards the state line, that it did indeed fly into Oregon and thusly Multnomah County airspace for some time. As it flew further up river the shape and flight style could still be made out and flew even closer to the shores of Sauvie Island which helped confirm for us that it was an “official” Multnomah County first only for it to fly back to it's favorite perch safely in Clark County, WA.





BRBO-2022-28 (Brown Booby)

1st round vote — March 1, 2023

Accepted: 9
Not Accepted: 0

Accepted, sight record, single report

The photos support the theory that the bird was an adult Brown Booby, but they are not clear enough for me to vote that they verify that a Brown Booby was seen. I can't really see the bill very well in the photos. In any case, the bird does have a sharp demarcation between the brown breast and the white belly that can be seen in the photos. The photos also show the bird to have a brown back. It is possible that this bird rode the ship at least part of the way up the Columbia River, but it is difficult to know that one way or another. In any case, the bird appears to be wild and unrestrained at the time of the sighting. See <https://www.aba.org/aba-recording-rules-and-interpretations> for more information about the ABA rules regarding ship assisted birds.

Accepted, verified

While the photographs leave much to be desired, they clearly show the field marks of an adult Brown Booby. No other Booby shows such a distinct contrast of white belly and brown upper breast, and monochromatic brown wings and back. I appreciate Kyle's explanation about the actual position of the bird relative to geopolitical boundaries. I have no hesitations in accepting this report.

Good description, and although the photos are distant and blurry, they are enough to rule out similar species (imm. Nazca and Masked Boobies should show an obvious white collar).

Better photos exist of this particular individual, but it was clearly a Brown Booby. The conversation of provenance is a little more interesting here, as it seems this booby was assisted in its travels by the ship it was originally located on. That being said, it seems to have voluntarily hitched a ride on the said vessel and was still a wild bird, thus countable.

Clearly an adult Brown Booby despite the distance to the bird and the photo quality. Also, seen and photographed by multiple observers. Seems almost incontrovertible that this is a ship-assisted bird given its geographic location and associations with a newly arrived ship. But we do not have a clear policy against accepting ship-assisted arrivals, so I am compelled to accept this record. However, if we are ever going to reject a record as ship-assisted this would be the one.

photo eliminates the other booby species

No comments

This bird was well documented by many birders.

The ID looks pretty straightforward here. The field marks can be seen in the photos and combined with the description make a solid case for Brown Booby. My only hesitation with this is location. The observer goes into detail about the bird's flight path which I think confirms that it was in fact in Oregon waters. The fact that it was on a ship gives me some pause as well but this species is a fairly regular vagrant in Oregon and it is not out of the realm of possibility that the bird made it here on its own and landed on the ship in WA waters.

The photo confirms the bird as a Brown Booby. The more interesting question is to what extent (if any) the bird was ship-assisted. The observer indicates that it is assumed that the bird was ship-assisted. However, it seems equally possible that the bird found a convenient place to land after flying in on its own. There are enough Brown Booby records that we can be confident that the species can and does reach Oregon without

assistance. Furthermore, it might have been assisted inland after having reached Oregon waters on its own, in which case it can be Accepted under OBRC rules. We can never know for sure, of course, but there is insufficient evidence that it was assisted, so I therefore vote to Accept.

Not Accepted

I hope somebody can make something out of the photos. They are so distant and out of focus I thought I was looking at a flycatcher. Unfortunately the written description does not make up for the defects of the photos, either. There simply is not enough there to accept this record.