



NSWO Records Appraisal Committee Unusual Record Report Form

This form is intended to aid observers in the preparation of a submission for a major rarity in New South Wales. (It is not a mandatory requirement) Please complete all sections ensuring that you attach all relevant information including copies of your notes, photographs or other supportive material. (PLEASE USE BLACK INK).

Full Name: Mick Roderick*	Office Use
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Address: 56 Karoola Road LAMBTON NSW 2299 * note –there were 13 other observers on board, all of which saw the bird.	Phone No: 02 4023 0322 / 0421 761237 Fax/Email: mickhhb@yahoo.com.au
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Species Name: Red-footed Booby	Scientific Name: <i>Sula sula</i>
Date(s) and time(s) of observation:	27/03/2010, at approximately 1400, on the way back to port.
How long did you watch the bird(s)?	Approximately 5 minutes while it followed the boat for a short while before flying off.
First and last date of occurrence:	27/03/2010
Distance to bird:	Closest, about 25m

Site Location: At sea off Port Stephens – no GPS reading taken but approximately 15 nautical miles from the heads.
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Habitat Open ocean.
Sighting conditions Clear skies. Slight NE breeze, seas and swell 1-1.5m.
Optical aids used: Swarovski 10x42 Binoculars.

To your knowledge, is the species seen frequently at this site? No, though there have been a few records off the NSW coast south of here in the past 18 months.

Did you use a field guide? (or any other references for help with identification). Yes, Pizzey and Knight initially, then HANZAB when I got home. No-one was in any doubt of the ID though.

Were other observers present Do any of the other observers disagree with your identification, if so, who? (please give names, addresses and phone numbers)? 13 other observers present. I can provide names if really necessary.
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How confident are you of your identification? , e.g. 70%, 100%. If not 100%, why not?
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100%

Other details: e.g. Do you have historical and or anecdotal information/comments relating to the prior occurrence/status of the species within or near this location? *If more space is needed for any section, please attach with your notes.*

Physical Description of Bird - Please describe only what you saw: (1) No. of individuals present (living or dead); (2) age (adult, juvenile, immature) and sex; (3) size and shape; (4) plumage colour and pattern (including any details of moult); (5) colour of bill, eyes and legs/feet; (6) calls; (7) behaviour, movements, flight pattern, and anything else that might help to identify the bird e.g. feeding, interactions with other birds, describe where the bird was – on ground, in canopy, flying etc. Were comparisons made with other species? *Please also state whether you saw the complete bird or only part of it?* (e.g. upper/lower/front/rear of bird).

Small-sized Booby with defined forehead, red facial skin and blue colouring around eye. The splotchy colouring on the upperwing and the brown tail (not white) suggest it is an intermediate morph bird. Leg . foot colour was not noticed.

Other species with which you think it might be confused and how these were eliminated?

With the combination of bill shape and size (completely different to other Boobies and Gannet by obvious forehead leading onto “fine” bill) and the colour of the facial markings, there is not considered to be any potential confusion species. See included images.

Was the description written from notes and/or sketches made (tick box):

during the observation or; shortly after the observation or; from memory?

Please indicate supportive evidence available.

Was the bird: photographed, taped or video taped? If yes to any of these, by whom?

The bird was photographed – 2 images are included and were taken by Marj Kibby.

What experience have you had with the species in question? (Did you know it was a Rare bird when you first saw it?)

On the eastern seaboard I have only seen a Red-footed Booby at Michelmas Cay (a juvenile bird) but have seen hundreds on Christmas and Cocos Islands.

Funnily enough, we didn't realise it was a Red-footed Booby at first but it soon dawned on us that it was.

Signature:_____

Date:_____3rd May 2010

