

Blue-footed Booby

Sula nebouxii

A large seabird of the warm coastal waters of the eastern Pacific, the Blue-footed Booby is a rare visitor to the West Coast of the United States. It has even occurred a few times at inland lakes in California, Texas, and Arizona.

Keys to Identification

Adult Description

- Large waterbird.
- Mostly white with dark wings and mottled back.
- Tail dusky.
- Whitish head, with thin dark streaking.
- Long, pointed, grayish bill.
- Long pointed tail.
- Long pointed wings.
- Dark face.
- Feet bright blue.

Immature Description

Juvenile dark all over with white belly. Pale at base of underside of wings.

Cool Facts

- The Blue-footed Booby is a rare, but regular visitor to the Salton Sea in California.
- The female Blue-footed Booby looks nearly identical to the male. The most obvious difference is that the pupils in her eyes are unusually large and somewhat star-shaped.
- From September 2013 to approximately February 2014 there was an invasion of Blue-footed Boobys into California. They ranged from the coast in San Diego north to Marin county, and several on inland waterways as well. This includes 4 at Lake Skinner in Riverside County from 13 September 2013 to 22 February 2014.

Measurements

Both Sexes

- Length - 31.9 inches
- Wingspan - 62.2 inches
- Weight - 52.9 - 77.6 ounces

