

**LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
RARE BIRD DOCUMENTATION**

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Species: Masked Booby, *Sula dactylatra*

Location: Peveto Woods Sanctuary, Cameron Parish, Louisiana

Date: 3 November 2019

Age and sex: Subadult, sex unknown

Molt status: Extensive wing molt, otherwise unknown.

Number of individuals: One

Other observers: Dave Ebbitt, Eamon Corbett, Marky Mutchler, Matt Brady

Original observer: Oscar Johnson, Marky Mutchler

Circumstances: We were pulling up to Peveto Woods in a long caravan of vehicles and we (the LSU grad students) were about to turn into the entrance road Marky and I noticed a large sulid flying over the road (i.e. down the beach) headed east. I started yelling something about a Masked Booby, honking the horn to alert the other trip participants, some of whom were already driving into the woods, and sped down to the beach. We got there as the bird was flying over the beach side of the woods where Eamon, Marky, and I managed to get some photos. It soon disappeared down the beach to the east, but were were able to get on it again shortly when it turned south and headed straight offshore. I got it in the scope for a few participants (I don't remember who exactly) and they watched it as it disappeared over the horizon. Needless to say our views weren't the best, but at least the photos are diagnostic. Weather: temps in mid 60s, sunny, light breeze.
eBird checklist: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S61165128>

Description: A large, mostly white sulid, with the distinctive structure and flight style of the family. The body was entirely white below, and mostly white above, with only a bit of dark feathering on the lower back indicative of a subadult plumage. The flight feathers on both the wing and the tail were entirely black, although the latter were not very obvious. A few gaps were apparent in the wing feathers, indicative of some molt. The wing coverts were mottled white and black. I was able to see the long triangular yellow-green bill quite well on a few occasions, and this is barely visible in at least one photo.

Discussion: Easily identifiable as a sulid. A gannet (the most expected species) would have been larger and stockier, with a gray bill, and with white secondaries and tail, the

latter black in our bird. A white morph Red-footed Booby (highly unlikely) would have had a white tail and a different bill color.







