

MASKED BOOBY BANDED ON LONG ISLAND, N. Y.
By LeRoy Wilcox

On Sept. 22, 1965, a Masked or Blue-faced Booby (*Sula Dactylatra*) was found on the outer beach at Quogue, L. I., N. Y. It was against the net on a tennis court enclosed by a ten foot high wire fence, about 560 ft. north of the ocean. The bird was identified by Dr. R. C. Murphy on Sept. 23 as an immature probably going into its second year. It was taken to the Quogue Wildlife Refuge by Mr. Carl Helms, the caretaker, and kept in captivity for six days to allow birders from New York City and L. I. ample time to see the bird before it was released. It weighed 6 lbs. 1 oz. and was in very good condition. It was fed six pounds of Squid and Canadian Smelt which was about enough to maintain its weight as it weighed just 6 lbs. when released in the ocean at Quogue on Sept. 28 after I had placed band 518-09883 on its left leg. It was a female as it gave a loud trumpet call whereas the males have been recorded as giving a "rather pathetic whistle." Legs and feet were black. Face, eyes and inside of mouth were light blue. Adults are known to have yellow eyes and black face.

Dr. R. C. Murphy in "Oceanic Birds of South America," 1936 gives measurements for females of the Atlantic form: wing, 417-440 (429); tail, 151-180 (164); bill, 91-99 (96). This L. I. female had wing 491, tail 198 and bill 107.

It is apparently a very rare bird north of southern Florida as there has been only one observation north of Florida. Two were seen on Jan. 23, 1937 off Folly Island, South Carolina by Sprunt. (S. C. Bird Life, Sprunt, 1949). It is rare in Fla. except at Dry Tortugas where it occurs regularly in summer but rare elsewhere in Fla. Sprunt only lists two other records for Fla., May 14, 1933 and July 14, 1950 near Pensacola. (Florida Bird Life, Sprunt, 1954). No records are given in "Georgia Birds, Burleigh, 1958" or in "Birds of North Carolina, Wray and Davis, 1959."

So this Quogue bird is the first record for New York State and appears to be the first record of the species north of South Carolina. It could well be the first one to be banded on mainland of the U. S. exclusive of Pacific islands.

Oceanic Duck Farm, Speonk, L. I., N. Y.

---Note the pictures of the Masked Booby on the front cover and on the preceding page.

--Ed.