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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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We Love Boobies!

Rare Seabird Southern California Visitors: Red-footed Booby and Masked Booby At Bird Rescue in San Pedro

What's better than one booby?! How about two?

We have a pair of very rare boobies in care at our Los Angeles Center: a **Red-footed Booby** and a **Masked Booby**. Both of these seabird species are uncommon West Coast visitors. Red-footed Boobies can usually be found in tropical and sub-tropical waters across the globe. Masked Boobies have an enormous range that stretches from the Caribbean Islands to Australia.

Redondo Beach Animal Control found the **Red-footed Booby** last month at the Redondo Beach fishing pier. The officer observed that the bird was not moving. After transport



to Bird Rescue, the booby was examined and found to be emaciated and molting with poor feather quality. It had some mild eye trauma that has since healed.

The Red-footed Booby (*Sula sula*) is the smallest of the booby family, standing just over two feet tall and with a wingspan over three feet.

On September 11th, a passerby captured the **Masked Booby** in Newport, Oregon. The bird was brought to the local Newport Field office of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Later, it was transferred to the Oregon Coast Aquarium, where Curator of Birds CJ McCarty and her team cared for it. The bird came in quite thin – weighing only 1,405g.

The USFWS contacted International Bird Rescue and requested the Masked Booby be moved to Bird Rescue in California for continued rehabilitation and release closer to its natural range. Alaska Airlines agreed to transport the booby free of charge from Portland, OR, to Los Angeles, CA this week. All of us at Bird Rescue would like to say a big thank you to USFWS, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Coast Aquarium, and Alaska Airlines for working together to get this bird the help it needed!

On Oct 1, the bird received a full examination by our veterinarian, Rebecca Duerr DVM, and was found to be bright and alert and in general good health, having gained a substantial amount of weight while at the aquarium.

The Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*) is the largest of the booby family, standing about three feet tall and with a wingspan over five feet. According USFWS, this bird is only the second Masked Booby that has been reported north of Mendocino County, California.

Both birds are resting comfortably in the outdoor aviary at our center located in San Pedro, and are working on gaining more weight before release. When introduced to the other booby in the aviary, the Masked Booby sidled over to the Red-footed Booby along the edge of the pool and gave a big squawk of greeting to the other bird. They have been a fine pair of aviary booby buddies ever since.

The public can help cover the cost of care of these birds by donating online: <http://bird-rescue.org/donate>

About International Bird Rescue: International Bird Rescue (“Bird

Rescue”) has been helping seabirds and other aquatic birds around the world since 1971. Our team of specialists operates two year-round aquatic bird rehabilitation centers in California as well as a temporary facility in Alaska. It relies on public support to care for more than 5,000 birds each year. Bird Rescue is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Learn more at birdrescue.org

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