

**BROWN BOOBY at Pope's Eye, Port Phillip Bay**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017**  
**VORAC SUBMISSION**

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**Species:** Brown Booby

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017

**Location:** Pope's Eye, Port Phillip Bay

**Time:** unclear

**Notes:** Am submitting on behalf of John [with permission] -do not have any further detail on sighting itself. Bird photographed by John and identified by chance whilst in discussion on another subject with Rohan Clarke. [Scott Baker]

From single photograph available would suggest combination of features – solid brown hood, all dark tail and upperparts [from what we can see], bluish bill base [?] and white underwing coverts enough identify this bird as a juv Brown Booby and rule out other Sulids.

Most likely confusion risk would be juvenile Aus Gannet –can appear hooded at a distance but never solid brown and sharply demarcated as shown in image below. Upperwing [on juv A Gannet] blackish with white spots, not uniform chocolate brown [admittedly limited view of upperparts].

Juv Masked Booby can also have dark hood but less extensive, with distinct white collar. M Booby at any age has black facial mask and shorter, deeper yellow colored bill.

Juv Red-footed Booby also dark headed but not strongly demarcated and at this age would likely show all dark underwing.

Am suggesting this bird is juv Brown Booby given darker underparts and pale primary coverts. Image appears to show bluish base to bill so likely a male.

