

## **PhD Dissertation Defense**

**Candidate:** Eleanora Babij

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**Title:** Geographic Variation and Ecology of Three Pantropical Seabirds: Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*), Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*), and Red-Footed Booby (*Sula sula*)

**Committee:** Dr. Lee Talbot

### **ABSTRACT**

This study examined the geographic variation of three species of sulids; the Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*), Brown Booby (*S. leucogaster*), and the Red-footed Booby (*S. sula*). Current subspecies definitions, characteristics that differentiate the species and relevant ecological factors were examined. Measurements of museum specimens were used in order to include as much of the species' range as possible. Measurements included culmen length, culmen width, culmen depth, wing, interior tarsus and tail. Statistical analysis was conducted using discriminant function analysis. The results were then viewed in light of the species' physical environment.