

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review to assure that all pertinent information is accounted for. Attach additional pages or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

1. English and Scientific names: American Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1 adult
3. Parish: Cameron
Specific Locality: seen from Willow Island beach access road; over Broussard Beach
4. Date(s) when observed: 16 October 2023

5. Time(s) of day when observed: about 8:10 a.m.

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Paul Edward Conover
City: Lafayette
State: Louisiana

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):
Excellent light. Early morning sun was to the SE, bird was to SW.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Vortex 12x

11. Distance to bird(s): Perhaps ¼ mile (I was almost to the end of the access road on the beach end and the bird was to my SW. It was flying over the beach or just beyond the beach.)

12. Duration of observation: perhaps 15-20 seconds. I saw the bird, studied it, then alternated between binos and camera trying to find bird in viewfinder.

13. Habitat: Beach

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): The bird was flying parallel to the beach either over the beach or out over water. I would estimate its altitude at 50-80 feet. It flew directly westward in a steady flapping rhythm. I noticed the bird when looking through my binos at a sparrow in the brush. I tried to switch to camera, but the difficulty of finding a skinny horizontal object through the viewfinder was too difficult so I made the decision to race to the beach and catch up to the bird for photos. I tried, but perhaps the bird cut over the land when I was looking seaward, or maybe the swirl of gulls and pelicans exploding off the beach as a peregrine flew ahead of me hid the bird from my sight and I never relocated it.

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possible: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species; body bulk, shape, proportions; bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*):

A long, skinny, pink, black, and red bird with a down-curved bill. Long neck that drooped as it left the body then became horizontal, and long outstretched legs. It basically looked like this:



The neck was pink, not a vivid coral pink but a paler pink, but still vivid enough for the color to carry a quarter of a mile. The bill had the characteristic downward bend of a flamingo, looking almost like a foreign object stuck on the bird's head. The wings had black flight feathers, and flashed pink and red in flight (pink mantle, red on wings?)

The flight of the bird was steady and regular. For some reason it reminded me of a goose.

16. Voice: not heard

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Various other flamingos but none have the color pattern of this species (on further review, I guess Chilean does/can).

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): none

19. Previous experience with this species: Seen in state twice before, including in flight, and have seen numerous times in zoos, etc.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: Yes. The biggest debate is origin; are these escapes or hurricane waifs? Given the widespread sightings of numerous individuals across North America north of Mexico following the rare path of a building system through the breeding grounds upward into the Gulf, I'd say that this event is the most plausible explanation for the outbreak this year.

23. Date: 18 October 2023

Time: 17:00

24. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page? yes

If yes, may we include your name with the report? yes