

LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: American Flamingo - *Phoenicopterus ruber*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1
3. Parish:
Orleans
4. Specific Locality:
Lake Catherine
5. Date(s) when observed: 9/29/23
6. Time(s) of day when observed: around noon
7. Reporting observer: Esme Rosen
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
stakeout - mob
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
Originally found by Michael Calamari
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): excellent
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss binoculars
12. Distance to bird(s): 20 m
13. Duration of observation: 15 min
14. Habitat: Coastal estuary, shallow pond on roadside
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Feeding and preening throughout observation.

These birds were part of a massive influx of flamingos into the United States, which is

generally associated with Hurricane Idalia, a category 4 hurricane that passed over the Yucatan in late August and hit Florida later as a weaker storm. 60+ birds were observed in Florida alone in the aftermath, and flamingos were found in 15 states in the months that followed, as far north as Wisconsin (!). A number of birds had bands from the Yucatan, strongly suggesting the source of these birds was a wild population. The bird here could fly perfectly well and had no signs of captivity

16. 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):

Bright pink, long neck and necks, weird downcurved bill shape with black tip

17. Voice: not heard

18. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

Other flamingoes easily separated by coloration and bill pattern

19. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

yes, attached, and may other photos by others

20. Previous experience with this species: none

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

none

22. Identification aids used when?

None used

23. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain:

yes

24. Date report completed:

12/8/23

25. 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

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

Yes



