

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):
One bird, sex unknown
3. Parish:
Orleans
4. Specific Locality:
US Highway 90, northeast of Chef Menteur Pass in a small pond to the right of the highway just before Lake Saint Catherine. The area was subsequently designated on Ebird as Flamingo Pond.
5. Date(s) when observed: September 29, 2023
6. Time(s) of day when observed: 11:40 a.m.
7. Reporting observer: Jon Wise
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
I went by myself but there were about 10 birders present when I arrived.
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
After I arrived, Van Remsen, Jack Rogers, Esme Rosen and Marcie Blanchard all arrived and observed bird.
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Full sunlight. Bird was in pond, fully visible and close to highway with sun revealing full shape and color.
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10 x 42 binoculars and Canon Rebel T7 camera w/ 100-600 telephoto lens
12. Distance to bird(s): 50-60 yards
13. Duration of observation: 35 minutes

14. Habitat: Coastal marsh, open pond. Likely brackish to fresh water. The pond was holding a variety of wading birds, including egrets and black-necked stilts, with a flyover spoonbill.

15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Bird appeared to be feeding the entire time, though what it was consuming was not visible from distance.

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):

Typical flamingo shape. Tall bird with distinctive long neck and large downcurved bill with a black tip. Entirely pink, though not dramatically so (Spoonbill was a deeper pink than this bird)- pinker on underside. Feathers did not appear dramatically worn. Did not observe any banding on legs.

17. Voice: Did not vocalize.

18. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):
No similar species to a flamingo from that distance and clear day.

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

20. Previous experience with this species: Seen multiple times in zoos, never in the wild.

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

Did not use any in identification, but looked afterward at Nat Geo and Sibley guides as well as Ibird.

22. Identification aids used when?
After observation

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

24. Date report completed:

November 1, 2023

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













