

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 as necessary. Please print or type. Attach xerox of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. English and Scientific names: *American Flamingo*, *Phoenicopterus ruber*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): *One adult*
3. Locality: Parish: *Terrebonne*
Specific Locality: *Whiskey Island (Isles Dernieres)*
4. Date(s) when observed: *04 June 2024*
5. Time(s) of day when observed: *0805-0830 and (intermittently) 1445-1550*
6. Reporting observer and address: *Robert C. Dobbs, Lafayette, LA*
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): *Connor Gable, Emma Counce, T.J. Zenzal*
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): *none*
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): *excellent: bright conditions beneath partly cloudy sky (AM) and mostly sunny sky (PM), generally with scenario where sun was to our backs*
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): *Swarovski 10x42 binos (good condition), Canon EF 100-400 mm f/4.5-5.6 L camera lens (good condition)*
11. Distance to bird(s): *As close as ca. 60-70 m initially (morning obs.); subsequently as close as ca. 20 m (afternoon obs.)*
12. Duration of observation: *ca. 1 h of close observation over ca. 1.5 h*

13. Habitat: tidal flat on bay-side shoreline of barrier island

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): We pulled up to our traditional landing spot at Whiskey Island and started preparing for a bird survey, when Connor spotted and alerted the group to the bird loafing in salt marsh near the bay side of the island, ca. 150 m away. We approached the bird for better photos, but only spent a few minutes with it, during which time the bird was loafing, often with its head tucked. The bird was still present when we returned to the area at 1445, when we were able to study it intermittently during the 1445-1700 period, during which time it was primarily foraging, with occasional bouts of loafing and preening, in very shallow water (<15 cm deep) of a bay-side tidal flat.

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): Obvious flamingo; bill mostly pink (but whitish at base, and whitish facial skin to eye), becoming black distally (below sharp bend of bill). Eye pale greenish-yellow. Legs and feet pink, slightly brighter pink at tarsal joints. Head, neck, and body plumage pale pink, mixed with whitish feathers; brighter pink on head. Primaries and secondaries blackish. Upper- and under-wing coverts a mix of bright and pale pink, and whitish feathers.

16. Voice: Called a few times when approached, a short, low-frequency, harsh honk, with a bit of a crane- or rattle-like quality

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Presumably one of numerous American Flamingos distributed throughout the eastern U.S., including Louisiana, in Fall 2023 following Hurricane Idalia. Greater Flamingo can be eliminated by this bird's pink head (whitish in Greater) and pale base of bill (pink in Greater). Chilean Flamingo has yellowish-gray legs with contrasting pink tarsal joints, and more of a bicolored bill with black extending farther up toward the base of the mandible. Lesser, Andean, and James's flamingos are all considerably smaller birds; Lesser with all-red bill, Andean with all-yellow legs and feet, and James's with very short drooping tip of bill, among numerous additional differences.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? Attached?): Photos by Robert C. Dobbs (attached), and by Connor Gable

19. Previous experience with this species: Only one previous observation, in Orleans Par., Louisiana, fall 2023, as part of large-scale incursion in eastern U.S. following Hurricane Idalia

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

a. at time of observation: [none](#)

b. after observation: [Handbook of the Birds of the World](#)

21. This description is written from: _____ notes made during the observation
(_____ notes attached?); _____ notes made after the observation (date: _____);
__[X](#)__ memory; __[X](#)__ images taken during the observation.

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: [Yes](#)

23. Date: [7 June 2024](#) Time: [0945](#)

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or
portions of this report on its website? __[Yes](#)__

If yes, may we include your name with the report? __[Yes](#)__

[One photo from 0830:](#)



Subsequent photos 1445-1550:







