

Flamingos at the Refuge!

Article & photo by Michelle Cano, Rio Grande Valley Chapter

As per an eBird report, flamingos were being seen in Corpus Christi, Texas due to displacement by a hurricane. Then an anonymous birder reported seeing a flamingo around October 15 at the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, however, many of us never saw that report for some reason. On Sunday, October 22, two more eBird reports from local birders (Evan and Justin) indicated that a flamingo was seen late that evening.

On Monday, October 23, I texted several friends about the amazing news that a flamingo was seen at the refuge last evening and we needed to go and see for ourselves. When I got to the Osprey Overlook, there were two flamingos! They were both immature birds with not a lot of pink yet. They were several yards out surrounded by Redhead and Pintail ducks and other wading birds. So exciting to see!!

The winds were blowing over 40 miles an hour and it was hard to get any decent video and photos, but we all did the best we could. It was so incredible to see flamingos at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge!



Two immature flamingos were spotted in October 2023 at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge

On the morning of Tuesday, October 24, a friend of mine saw them in the same very spot but by the afternoon, another friend of mine could not locate them. They hadn't been seen in the following days either, but the refuge is so vast, they could be anywhere.