

## Chilean Flamingo

*Phoenicopterus chilensis*

BOU Category:	<b>E</b> (GB and site) †
Site status:	<b>vagrant escapee</b>
Devon status:	unlisted †
Conservation status:	BOCC3 (unlisted); † SPEC (unlisted); IUCN Global category (Near Threatened) †
Conservation levels	n/a

### International

Declining markedly since the 1970s, c.200,000 individuals remain, breeding in Bolivia, Argentina, Chile and Peru, and wintering in Uruguay to Tierra del Fuego. †

### Europe

Since the 1980s, up to 10 - 20 pairs nest in most years at Zwillbrocker Venn, Germany, and in the early 1990s, 9 - 18 pairs nested in the Netherlands. They follow a distinct migratory pattern, wintering in Holland on the IJsselmeer. The mixed flamingo flock, comprising of mainly Chilean, plus small numbers of possibly native wild bred Greater (*P. ruber roseus*), and a few escapee Caribbean (*P. r. ruber*), occasional escapee Lesser Flamingo (*P. minor*) and hybrids, has exceeded 300 birds, † but the Chilean component is considered to be stable at about 40 birds. †

### Great Britain and Devon

Apart from being known as an occasional escapee from wildfowl collections and a suspected wanderer from the German/Dutch population, † little is known about the number at large, or of their patterns of occurrence and movement.

### Dawlish Warren

#### Only **one record**:

28 Sep - 28 Nov 1964      one on the Exe Estuary was occasionally seen here (actual dates unknown). †

As was the fashion many years ago, escapees were unrecorded in the Devon Bird Reports and consequently this record was omitted from subsequent county avifaunas. † †

This record pre-dates self-supporting (?) feral populations in Europe and is therefore not a vagrant Cat C5 candidate. Paignton Zoo in Torbay has a flock of over 50 birds, but the source of the 1964 escapee is unknown.

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