

Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge Monthly Habitat, Waterfowl and Eagle Survey Report

Date: 2022-03-14

Document Purpose:

This document provides a summary of waterfowl and bald eagle use on Loess Bluffs NWR, updated weekly. Bird estimates are derived using Integrated Waterbird Management and Monitoring (IWMM) protocol using an area count (bird per acre), block or modified block count methods, for more information click on the following links for [IWMM Protocol](#) pages 18 – 21 and [U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's estimating flock size](#) website.

Habitat Conditions Summary:

Habitat conditions are rated based on ocular estimates of overall habitat condition, area (acres) of wetlands flooded and percentage of wetland frozen using [IWMM Protocol](#) pages 11 – 17.

Habitat Condition	02/23/2022 data	02/28/2022 data	03/08/2022 data	03/14/2022 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	99%	85%	25%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 02/23/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 02/28/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 03/08/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 03/14/2022
Greater White-fronted Goose	300	625	1,830	205
Snow Goose	73,015	839,550	1,068,070	841,555
Ross's Goose	Present	Present	Present	Present
Canada Goose	625	772	173	189
Trumpeter Swan	992	834	952	861
Tundra Swan	0	1	2	0
Wood Duck	0	0	40	55
Gadwall	55	90	7,105	7,400
American Wigeon	0	10	90	35
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	315	4,720	18,285	8,240
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	15	125
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	15	30	975	1,565

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 02/23/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 02/28/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 03/08/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 03/14/2022
Northern Pintail	0	3,620	13,505	6,110
Green-winged Teal	0	15	5,095	2,580
Canvasback	0	0	2	0
Redhead	0	0	15	5
Ring-necked Duck	0	0	9,785	14,765
Scaup	0	0	405	485
Bufflehead	5	6	185	201
Common Goldeneye	0	5	100	205
Hooded Merganser	5	24	98	167
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	55	0
Pied-billed Grebe	0	0	2	1
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	0	5	4,310	6,600

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 02/23/2022	Total number of birds observed week of 02/28/2022	Total number of birds observed week of 03/08/2022	Total number of birds observed week of 03/14/2022
Geese	73,940	840,947	1,070,073	841,949
Dabblers	385	8,485	45,110	26,110
Divers	10	35	10,645	15,828
All Ducks	395	8,520	55,755	41,938
Shorebirds	0	0	43	13

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 02/23/2022	Total number of birds observed 02/28/2022	Total number of birds observed 03/08/2022	Total number of birds observed 03/14/2022
Immature	64	23	30	34
Adult	92	22	9	92
All Eagles	156	45	39	126