

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

Date: 2024-03-05

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	02/13/2024 data	02/22/2024 data	02/29/2024 data	03/05/2024 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	0%	15%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 02/13/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 02/22/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 02/29/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 03/05/2024
Greater White-fronted Goose	2,385	4,795	605	621
Snow Goose	1,234,017	580,375	392,435	262,815
Ross's Goose	34,500	Present	Present	Present
Canada Goose	655	488	249	107
Trumpeter Swan	2,097	3,242	1,820	1,185
Tundra Swan	3	0	0	0
Wood Duck	0	10	10	45
Gadwall	355	1,225	3,515	4,160
American Wigeon	7	55	125	45
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	26,688	16,235	18,740	11,025
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	70	420	455	635

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 02/13/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 02/22/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 02/29/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 03/05/2024
Northern Pintail	8,080	5,730	12,855	2,052
Green-winged Teal	2,960	1,251	1,495	2,575
Canvasback	3	0	0	0
Redhead	0	50	20	10
Ring-necked Duck	446	3,669	9,300	3,675
Scaup	10	70	195	280
Bufflehead	7	64	50	195
Common Goldeneye	437	295	133	170
Hooded Merganser	57	75	69	73
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	15	0
Pied-billed Grebe	0	0	0	2
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	2	85	105	828

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 02/13/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 02/22/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 02/29/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 03/05/2024
Geese	1,271,557	585,658	393,289	263,543
Dabblers	38,160	24,926	37,195	20,537
Divers	960	4,223	9,782	4,403
All Ducks	39,120	29,149	46,977	24,940
Shorebirds	0	1	1	34

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 02/13/2024	Total number of birds observed 02/22/2024	Total number of birds observed 02/29/2024	Total number of birds observed 03/05/2024
Adult	9	31	40	23
Immature	9	68	97	57
All Eagles	18	99	137	80