

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

Date: 2024-03-14

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	02/22/2024 data	02/29/2024 data	03/05/2024 data	03/14/2024 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%	15%	0%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 03/14/2024
Greater White-fronted Goose	4,795	605	621	570
Snow Goose	580,375	392,435	262,815	4,490
Ross's Goose	Present	Present	Present	6
Canada Goose	488	249	107	115
Trumpeter Swan	3,242	1,820	1,185	963
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	10	10	45	15
Gadwall	1,225	3,515	4,160	2,700
American Wigeon	55	125	45	50
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	16,235	18,740	11,025	2,641
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	731
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	420	455	635	2,686

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 03/14/2024
Northern Pintail	5,730	12,855	2,052	40
Green-winged Teal	1,251	1,495	2,575	2,030
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	50	20	10	20
Ring-necked Duck	3,669	9,300	3,675	4,545
Scaup	70	195	280	75
Bufflehead	64	50	195	60
Common Goldeneye	295	133	170	45
Hooded Merganser	75	69	73	46
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	15	0	115
Pied-billed Grebe	0	0	2	3
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	85	105	828	3,185

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 03/14/2024
Geese	585,658	393,289	263,543	5,181
Dabblers	24,926	37,195	20,537	10,893
Divers	4,223	9,782	4,403	4,906
All Ducks	29,149	46,977	24,940	15,799
Shorebirds	1	1	34	55

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 02/22/2024	Total number of birds observed 02/29/2024	Total number of birds observed 03/05/2024	Total number of birds observed 03/14/2024
Adult	31	40	23	11
Immature	68	97	57	23
All Eagles	99	137	80	34