

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

Date: 2024-03-19

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	02/29/2024 data	03/05/2024 data	03/14/2024 data	03/19/2024 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	15%	0%	0%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 03/19/2024
Greater White-fronted Goose	605	621	570	1,000
Snow Goose	392,435	262,815	4,490	13,240
Ross's Goose	Present	Present	6	4
Canada Goose	249	107	115	88
Trumpeter Swan	1,820	1,185	963	359
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	10	45	15	95
Gadwall	3,515	4,160	2,700	2,685
American Wigeon	125	45	50	15
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	18,740	11,025	2,641	1,755
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	731	221
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	455	635	2,686	3,890

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 03/19/2024
Northern Pintail	12,855	2,052	40	75
Green-winged Teal	1,495	2,575	2,030	957
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	20	10	20	15
Ring-necked Duck	9,300	3,675	4,545	2,685
Scaup	195	280	75	65
Bufflehead	50	195	60	205
Common Goldeneye	133	170	45	40
Hooded Merganser	69	73	46	76
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	15	0	115	0
Pied-billed Grebe	0	2	3	7
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	105	828	3,185	2,426

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 03/19/2024
Geese	393,289	263,543	5,181	14,332
Dabblers	37,195	20,537	10,893	9,693
Divers	9,782	4,403	4,906	3,086
All Ducks	46,977	24,940	15,799	12,779
Shorebirds	1	34	55	57

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 02/29/2024	Total number of birds observed 03/05/2024	Total number of birds observed 03/14/2024	Total number of birds observed 03/19/2024
Adult	40	23	11	6
Immature	97	57	23	10
All Eagles	137	80	34	16