

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

Date: 2024-04-09

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	03/14/2024 data	03/19/2024 data	03/26/2024 data	04/09/2024 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	0%	0%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 03/14/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 03/19/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 03/26/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 04/09/2024
Greater White-fronted Goose	570	1,000	0	0
Snow Goose	4,490	13,240	60	40
Ross's Goose	6	4	5	6
Canada Goose	115	88	51	43
Trumpeter Swan	963	359	260	0
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	15	95	38	150
Gadwall	2,700	2,685	1,837	2,235
American Wigeon	50	15	10	65
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	2,641	1,755	445	194
Blue-winged Teal	731	221	968	2,525
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	2,686	3,890	6,511	5,315

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 03/14/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 03/19/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 03/26/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 04/09/2024
Northern Pintail	40	75	100	60
Green-winged Teal	2,030	957	2,290	251
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	20	15	10	0
Ring-necked Duck	4,545	2,685	697	145
Scaup	75	65	180	35
Bufflehead	60	205	220	28
Common Goldeneye	45	40	50	0
Hooded Merganser	46	76	44	19
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	115	0	17	85
Pied-billed Grebe	3	7	18	73
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	3,185	2,426	3,477	7,980

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 03/14/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 03/19/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 03/26/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 04/09/2024
Geese	5,181	14,332	116	89
Dabblers	10,893	9,693	12,199	10,795
Divers	4,906	3,086	1,218	312
All Ducks	15,799	12,779	13,417	11,107
Shorebirds	55	57	114	253

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 03/14/2024	Total number of birds observed 03/19/2024	Total number of birds observed 03/26/2024	Total number of birds observed 04/09/2024
Adult	11	6	7	8
Immature	23	10	9	0
All Eagles	34	16	16	8