

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

Date: 2024-04-30

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	04/09/2024 data	04/17/2024 data	04/23/2024 data	04/30/2024 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,250
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	0%	0%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 04/09/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 04/17/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 04/23/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 04/30/2024
Greater White-fronted Goose	0	0	0	0
Snow Goose	40	35	14	17
Ross's Goose	6	0	0	1
Canada Goose	43	29	62	48
Trumpeter Swan	0	0	0	2
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	150	35	136	84
Gadwall	2,235	1,255	1,267	775
American Wigeon	65	25	16	0
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	194	115	56	150
Blue-winged Teal	2,525	4,270	2,539	1,157
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	5,315	1,750	794	389

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 04/09/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 04/17/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 04/23/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 04/30/2024
Northern Pintail	60	35	20	0
Green-winged Teal	251	145	80	5
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	0	1	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	145	65	23	10
Scaup	35	5	25	5
Bufflehead	28	1	0	0
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0
Hooded Merganser	19	35	38	17
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	85	20	10	5
Pied-billed Grebe	73	42	49	31
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	7,980	2,760	2,726	1,085

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 04/09/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 04/17/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 04/23/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 04/30/2024
Geese	89	64	76	66
Dabblers	10,795	7,630	4,908	2,560
Divers	312	127	96	37
All Ducks	11,107	7,757	5,004	2,597
Shorebirds	253	675	1,568	1,184

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 04/09/2024	Total number of birds observed 04/17/2024	Total number of birds observed 04/23/2024	Total number of birds observed 04/30/2024
Adult	8	6	6	
Immature	0	0	1	
All Eagles	8	6	7	Present