

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

Date: 2024-05-09

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	04/17/2024 data	04/23/2024 data	04/30/2024 data	05/09/2024 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,400	3,400	3,250	3,100
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	0%	0%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 05/09/2024
Greater White-fronted Goose	0	0	0	0
Snow Goose	35	14	17	39
Ross's Goose	0	0	1	2
Canada Goose	29	62	48	54
Trumpeter Swan	0	0	2	0
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	35	136	84	211
Gadwall	1,255	1,267	775	562
American Wigeon	25	16	0	15
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	115	56	150	30
Blue-winged Teal	4,270	2,539	1,157	1,169
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	1,750	794	389	375

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 05/09/2024
Northern Pintail	35	20	0	2
Green-winged Teal	145	80	5	25
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	1	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	65	23	10	0
Scaup	5	25	5	6
Bufflehead	1	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0
Hooded Merganser	35	38	17	23
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	20	10	5	0
Pied-billed Grebe	42	49	31	4
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	7,980	2,760	2,726	580

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 05/09/2024
Geese	64	76	66	95
Dabblers	7,630	4,908	2,560	2,389
Divers	127	96	37	29
All Ducks	7,757	5,004	2,597	2,418
Shorebirds	675	1,568	1,184	1,650

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 04/17/2024	Total number of birds observed 04/23/2024	Total number of birds observed 04/30/2024	Total number of birds observed 05/09/2024
Adult	6	6		
Immature	0	1		
All Eagles	6	7	Present	Present