

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

Date: 2024-05-15

## 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	04/23/2024 data	04/30/2024 data	05/09/2024 data	05/15/2024 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,400	3,250	3,100	2,900
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	0%	0%	0%

## Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 05/15/2024
Greater White-fronted Goose	0	0	0	0
Snow Goose	14	17	39	36
Ross's Goose	0	1	2	1
Canada Goose	62	48	54	47
Trumpeter Swan	0	2	0	0
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	136	84	211	30
Gadwall	1,267	775	562	15
American Wigeon	16	0	15	0
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	56	150	30	6
Blue-winged Teal	2,539	1,157	1,169	307
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	794	389	375	8

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 05/15/2024
Northern Pintail	20	0	2	1
Green-winged Teal	80	5	25	7
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	23	10	0	0
Scaup	25	5	6	3
Bufflehead	0	0	0	1
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0
Hooded Merganser	38	17	23	40
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	10	5	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	49	31	4	15
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	2,760	2,726	580	311

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 05/15/2024
Geese	76	66	95	84
Dabblers	4,908	2,560	2,389	374
Divers	96	37	29	44
All Ducks	5,004	2,597	2,418	418
Shorebirds	1,568	1,184	1,650	152

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 04/23/2024	Total number of birds observed 04/30/2024	Total number of birds observed 05/09/2024	Total number of birds observed 05/15/2024
Adult	6			
Immature	1			
All Eagles	7	Present	Present	Present