

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

Date: 2024-11-05

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	10/16/2024 data	10/22/2024 data	10/29/2024 data	11/05/2024 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	2,670	2,800	3,080	3,260
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	0%	0%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 10/16/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 10/22/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 10/29/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 11/05/2024
Greater White-fronted Goose	0	300	245	405
Snow Goose	0	0	0	0
Ross's Goose	0	0	0	0
Canada Goose	12	76	327	258
Trumpeter Swan	0	0	0	0
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	110	305	310	830
Gadwall	200	200	1,355	1,715
American Wigeon	30	25	140	25
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	5	250	430	18,250
Blue-winged Teal	0	195	75	50
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	25	155	210	295

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 10/16/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 10/22/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 10/29/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 11/05/2024
Northern Pintail	20,415	18,400	19,530	58,200
Green-winged Teal	3,270	5,920	20,325	38,185
Canvasback	0	0	0	3
Redhead	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	1,325	900	3,205	2,180
Scaup	0	0	0	15
Bufflehead	0	0	1	0
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0
Hooded Merganser	0	1	1	0
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	24	43	23	75
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	2,095	2,130	3,530	6,535

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 10/16/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 10/22/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 10/29/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 11/05/2024
Geese	12	376	572	663
Dabblers	24,055	25,450	42,375	117,550
Divers	1,325	901	3,207	2,198
All Ducks	25,380	26,351	45,582	119,748
Shorebirds	55	24	20	1

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 10/16/2024	Total number of birds observed 10/22/2024	Total number of birds observed 10/29/2024	Total number of birds observed 11/05/2024
Adult				
Immature				
All Eagles	Present	Present	Present	Present