

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

Date: 2024-12-10

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	11/20/2024 data	11/26/2024 data	12/03/2024 data	12/10/2024 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,300	3,430	3,430	3,500
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	0%	75%	35%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 11/20/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 11/26/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 12/03/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 12/10/2024
Greater White-fronted Goose	10,430	16,490	13,090	2,565
Snow Goose	3,800	33,300	41,250	38,917
Ross's Goose	Present	Present	Present	Present
Canada Goose	1,614	2,503	1,062	1,716
Trumpeter Swan	144	1,063	2,688	3,741
Tundra Swan	2	4	6	10
Wood Duck	500	275	40	10
Gadwall	6,446	7,855	580	110
American Wigeon	85	105	10	5
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	85,365	123,646	116,690	48,878
Blue-winged Teal	5	10	0	5
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	500	2,540	400	390

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 11/20/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 11/26/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 12/03/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 12/10/2024
Northern Pintail	42,030	60,280	8,115	8,971
Green-winged Teal	120,705	84,250	37,330	3,035
Canvasback	43	97	7	15
Redhead	215	100	25	185
Ring-necked Duck	16,000	31,470	9,065	185
Scaup	220	60	25	10
Bufflehead	2	20	0	0
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	5
Hooded Merganser	4	6	9	11
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	15	15	5	25
Pied-billed Grebe	9	14	0	0
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	1,450	2,235	315	30

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 11/20/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 11/26/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 12/03/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 12/10/2024
Geese	15,844	52,293	55,402	43,198
Dabblers	255,636	278,961	163,165	61,404
Divers	16,499	31,768	9,136	436
All Ducks	272,135	310,729	172,301	61,840
Shorebirds	0	0	3	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 11/20/2024	Total number of birds observed 11/26/2024	Total number of birds observed 12/03/2024	Total number of birds observed 12/10/2024
Adult	7	48	210	268
Immature	11	36	163	276
All Eagles	18	84	373	544