

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

Date: 2024-12-17

### 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	11/26/2024 data	12/03/2024 data	12/10/2024 data	12/17/2024 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,430	3,430	3,500	3,500
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	75%	35%	30%

### Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 12/17/2024
Greater White-fronted Goose	16,490	13,090	2,565	5,735
Snow Goose	33,300	41,250	38,917	241
Ross's Goose	Present	Present	Present	Present
Canada Goose	2,503	1,062	1,716	2,107
Trumpeter Swan	1,063	2,688	3,741	3,779
Tundra Swan	4	6	10	6
Wood Duck	275	40	10	5
Gadwall	7,855	580	110	23
American Wigeon	105	10	5	10
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	123,646	116,690	48,878	50,752
Blue-winged Teal	10	0	5	5
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	2,540	400	390	142

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 12/17/2024
Northern Pintail	60,280	8,115	8,971	1,590
Green-winged Teal	84,250	37,330	3,035	230
Canvasback	97	7	15	3
Redhead	100	25	185	0
Ring-necked Duck	31,470	9,065	185	3
Scaup	60	25	10	1
Bufflehead	20	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	0	0	5	18
Hooded Merganser	6	9	11	8
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	15	5	25	2
Pied-billed Grebe	14	0	0	0
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	2,235	315	30	25

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 12/17/2024
Geese	52,293	55,402	43,198	8,083
Dabblers	278,961	163,165	61,404	52,757
Divers	31,768	9,136	436	35
All Ducks	310,729	172,301	61,840	52,792
Shorebirds	0	3	0	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 11/26/2024	Total number of birds observed 12/03/2024	Total number of birds observed 12/10/2024	Total number of birds observed 12/17/2024
Adult	48	210	268	318
Immature	36	163	276	293
All Eagles	84	373	544	611