

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

Date: 2022-03-08

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	02/14/2022 data	02/23/2022 data	02/28/2022 data	03/08/2022 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	95%	99%	85%	25%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 02/14/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 02/23/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 02/28/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 03/08/2022
Greater White-fronted Goose	0	300	625	1,830
Snow Goose	46,010	73,015	839,550	1,068,070
Ross's Goose	200	Present	Present	Present
Canada Goose	655	625	772	173
Trumpeter Swan	474	992	834	952
Tundra Swan	0	0	1	2
Wood Duck	0	0	0	40
Gadwall	0	55	90	7,105
American Wigeon	0	0	10	90
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	230	315	4,720	18,285
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	15
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	0	15	30	975

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 02/14/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 02/23/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 02/28/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 03/08/2022
Northern Pintail	0	0	3,620	13,505
Green-winged Teal	0	0	15	5,095
Canvasback	0	0	0	2
Redhead	0	0	0	15
Ring-necked Duck	0	0	0	9,785
Scaup	0	0	0	405
Bufflehead	1	5	6	185
Common Goldeneye	20	0	5	100
Hooded Merganser	2	5	24	98
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	55
Pied-billed Grebe	0	0	0	2
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	0	0	5	4,310

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 02/14/2022	Total number of birds observed week of 02/23/2022	Total number of birds observed week of 02/28/2022	Total number of birds observed week of 03/08/2022
Geese	46,865	73,940	840,947	1,070,073
Dabblers	230	385	8,485	45,110
Divers	23	10	35	10,645
All Ducks	253	395	8,520	55,755
Shorebirds	0	0	0	43

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 02/14/2022	Total number of birds observed 02/23/2022	Total number of birds observed 02/28/2022	Total number of birds observed 03/08/2022
Immature	35	64	23	30
Adult	28	92	22	9
All Eagles	63	156	45	39