

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

Date: 2022-11-28

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	11/07/2022 data	11/15/2022 data	11/22/2022 data	11/28/2022 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	2,825	2,955	3,175	3,290
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	40%	65%	10%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 11/07/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 11/15/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 11/22/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 11/28/2022
Greater White-fronted Goose	11,000	44,005	49,930	10,855
Snow Goose	705	29,505	99,585	152,960
Ross's Goose	35	225	Present	35
Canada Goose	296	654	746	1,005
Trumpeter Swan	93	102	1,806	1,671
Tundra Swan	2	0	8	11
Wood Duck	110	25	25	15
Gadwall	6,580	3,950	0	10
American Wigeon	270	25	0	5
American Black Duck	0	0	0	2
Mallard	32,495	60,735	94,000	76,715
Blue-winged Teal	360	0	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	870	665	275	240

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 11/07/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 11/15/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 11/22/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 11/28/2022
Northern Pintail	22,120	34,115	3,710	575
Green-winged Teal	28,205	13,310	4,580	6,990
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	10	0	5	10
Ring-necked Duck	13,260	7,120	515	720
Scaup	40	65	10	30
Bufflehead	2	30	1	0
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0
Hooded Merganser	30	23	4	1
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	45	0	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	26	10	1	1
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	3,510	710	155	70

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 11/07/2022	Total number of birds observed week of 11/15/2022	Total number of birds observed week of 11/22/2022	Total number of birds observed week of 11/28/2022
Geese	12,036	74,389	150,261	164,855
Dabblers	91,010	112,825	102,590	84,552
Divers	13,387	7,238	535	761
All Ducks	104,397	120,063	103,125	85,313
Shorebirds	0	0	0	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 11/07/2022	Total number of birds observed 11/15/2022	Total number of birds observed 11/22/2022	Total number of birds observed 11/28/2022
Immature	11	38	180	248
Adult	7	20	107	122
All Eagles	18	58	287	370