

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

Date: 2022-12-05

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	11/15/2022 data	11/22/2022 data	11/28/2022 data	12/05/2022 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Excellent	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	2,955	3,175	3,290	3,300
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	40%	65%	10%	90%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 12/05/2022
Greater White-fronted Goose	44,005	49,930	10,855	4,830
Snow Goose	29,505	99,585	152,960	16,990
Ross's Goose	225	Present	35	Present
Canada Goose	654	746	1,005	1,495
Trumpeter Swan	102	1,806	1,671	2,584
Tundra Swan	0	8	11	8
Wood Duck	25	25	15	0
Gadwall	3,950	0	10	20
American Wigeon	25	0	5	10
American Black Duck	0	0	2	0
Mallard	60,735	94,000	76,715	72,085
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	665	275	240	245

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 12/05/2022
Northern Pintail	34,115	3,710	575	895
Green-winged Teal	13,310	4,580	6,990	2,070
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	0	5	10	0
Ring-necked Duck	7,120	515	720	5
Scaup	65	10	30	0
Bufflehead	30	1	0	0
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0
Hooded Merganser	23	4	1	10
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	10	1	1	0
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	710	155	70	30

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 12/05/2022
Geese	74,389	150,261	164,855	23,315
Dabblers	112,825	102,590	84,552	75,325
Divers	7,238	535	761	15
All Ducks	120,063	103,125	85,313	75,340
Shorebirds	0	0	0	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 11/15/2022	Total number of birds observed 11/22/2022	Total number of birds observed 11/28/2022	Total number of birds observed 12/05/2022
Immature	38	180	248	292
Adult	20	107	122	411
All Eagles	58	287	370	703