

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

Date: 2022-12-14

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	11/22/2022 data	11/28/2022 data	12/05/2022 data	12/14/2022 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,175	3,290	3,300	3,350
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	65%	10%	90%	45%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 12/14/2022
Greater White-fronted Goose	49,930	10,855	4,830	4,665
Snow Goose	99,585	152,960	16,990	45,905
Ross's Goose	Present	35	Present	Present
Canada Goose	746	1,005	1,495	992
Trumpeter Swan	1,806	1,671	2,584	2,753
Tundra Swan	8	11	8	4
Wood Duck	25	15	0	0
Gadwall	0	10	20	10
American Wigeon	0	5	10	10
American Black Duck	0	2	0	0
Mallard	94,000	76,715	72,085	71,870
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	5
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	275	240	245	35

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 12/14/2022
Northern Pintail	3,710	575	895	145
Green-winged Teal	4,580	6,990	2,070	620
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	5	10	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	515	720	5	0
Scaup	10	30	0	0
Bufflehead	1	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	10
Hooded Merganser	4	1	10	0
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	1	1	0	1
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	155	70	30	10

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 12/14/2022
Geese	150,261	164,855	23,315	51,562
Dabblers	102,590	84,552	75,325	72,695
Divers	535	761	15	10
All Ducks	103,125	85,313	75,340	72,705
Shorebirds	0	0	0	2

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 11/22/2022	Total number of birds observed 11/28/2022	Total number of birds observed 12/05/2022	Total number of birds observed 12/14/2022
Immature	180	248	411	118
Adult	107	122	292	66
All Eagles	287	370	703	184