

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

Date: 2023-01-10

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	12/14/2022 data	12/19/2022 data	12/27/2022 data	01/10/2023 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,350	3,390	3,420	3,500
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	45%	98%	100%	99%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 12/14/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 12/19/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 12/27/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 01/10/2023
Greater White-fronted Goose	4,665	3,985	0	125
Snow Goose	45,905	1,380	0	3,600
Ross's Goose	Present	Present	0	10
Canada Goose	992	1,294	0	1,107
Trumpeter Swan	2,753	3,008	4	1,798
Tundra Swan	4	1	0	2
Wood Duck	0	0	0	0
Gadwall	10	30	0	0
American Wigeon	10	0	0	0
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	71,870	24,100	0	2,622
Blue-winged Teal	5	0	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	35	80	0	5

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 12/14/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 12/19/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 12/27/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 01/10/2023
Northern Pintail	145	350	0	5
Green-winged Teal	620	1,140	0	0
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	0	1	0	1
Scaup	0	0	0	0
Bufflehead	0	1	0	0
Common Goldeneye	10	0	0	22
Hooded Merganser	0	0	0	0
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	1	0	0	0
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	10	5	0	0

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 12/14/2022	Total number of birds observed week of 12/19/2022	Total number of birds observed week of 12/27/2022	Total number of birds observed week of 01/10/2023
Geese	51,562	6,659	0	4,842
Dabblers	72,695	25,700	0	2,632
Divers	10	2	0	23
All Ducks	72,705	25,702	0	2,655
Shorebirds	2	0	0	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 12/14/2022	Total number of birds observed 12/19/2022	Total number of birds observed 12/27/2022	Total number of birds observed 01/10/2023
Immature	118	128	5	4
Adult	66	133	15	11
All Eagles	184	261	20	15