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

Date: 2023-02-27

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	01/30/2023 data	02/07/2023 data	02/22/2023 data	02/27/2023 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	99%	35%	0%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 01/30/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 02/07/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 02/22/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 02/27/2023
Greater White-fronted Goose	0	8,720	16,520	2,880
Snow Goose	10	403,000	1,359,770	1,085,328
Ross's Goose	0	4,050	12,350	8,480
Canada Goose	450	9,762	2,278	716
Trumpeter Swan	764	2,535	3,354	1,920
Tundra Swan	0	1	0	2
Wood Duck	0	0	5	5
Gadwall	0	25	1,715	780
American Wigeon	0	15	40	0
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	1,430	27,185	29,510	7,482
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	5	10	110	161

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 01/30/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 02/07/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 02/22/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 02/27/2023
Northern Pintail	25	1,030	25,925	3,505
Green-winged Teal	0	0	1,295	0
Canvasback	0	0	5	10
Redhead	0	0	20	10
Ring-necked Duck	10	10	3,680	1,820
Scaup	0	0	200	40
Bufflehead	0	0	35	15
Common Goldeneye	0	178	800	396
Hooded Merganser	0	3	52	54
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	0	0	0	0
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	0	0	20	10

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 01/30/2023	Total number of birds observed week of 02/07/2023	Total number of birds observed week of 02/22/2023	Total number of birds observed week of 02/27/2023
Geese	460	425,532	1,390,918	1,097,404
Dabblers	1,460	28,265	58,600	11,933
Divers	10	191	4,792	2,345
All Ducks	1,470	28,456	63,392	14,278
Shorebirds	0	0	0	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 01/30/2023	Total number of birds observed 02/07/2023	Total number of birds observed 02/22/2023	Total number of birds observed 02/27/2023
Immature	2	3	7	20
Adult	9	8	10	10
All Eagles	11	11	17	30