

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

Date: 2023-03-06

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	02/07/2023 data	02/22/2023 data	02/27/2023 data	03/06/2023 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	35%	0%	0%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 03/06/2023
Greater White-fronted Goose	8,720	16,520	2,880	305
Snow Goose	403,000	1,359,770	1,085,328	405,655
Ross's Goose	4,050	12,350	8,480	4,101
Canada Goose	9,762	2,278	716	163
Trumpeter Swan	2,535	3,354	1,920	1,445
Tundra Swan	1	0	2	0
Wood Duck	0	5	5	35
Gadwall	25	1,715	780	13,930
American Wigeon	15	40	0	65
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	27,185	29,510	7,482	9,330
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	20
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	10	110	161	5,320

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 03/06/2023
Northern Pintail	1,030	25,925	3,505	6,175
Green-winged Teal	0	1,295	0	3,010
Canvasback	0	5	10	10
Redhead	0	20	10	70
Ring-necked Duck	10	3,680	1,820	21,810
Scaup	0	200	40	560
Bufflehead	0	35	15	225
Common Goldeneye	178	800	396	335
Hooded Merganser	3	52	54	119
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	25
Pied-billed Grebe	0	0	0	0
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	0	20	10	3,490

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 03/06/2023
Geese	425,532	1,390,918	1,097,404	410,224
Dabblers	28,265	58,600	11,933	37,885
Divers	191	4,792	2,345	23,154
All Ducks	28,456	63,392	14,278	61,039
Shorebirds	0	0	0	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 02/07/2023	Total number of birds observed 02/22/2023	Total number of birds observed 02/27/2023	Total number of birds observed 03/06/2023
Immature	3	7	20	3
Adult	8	10	10	3
All Eagles	11	17	30	6