

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

Date: 2023-03-13

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	02/22/2023 data	02/27/2023 data	03/06/2023 data	03/13/2023 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	0%	0%	15%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 03/13/2023
Greater White-fronted Goose	16,520	2,880	305	0
Snow Goose	1,359,770	1,085,328	405,655	229,810
Ross's Goose	12,350	8,480	4,101	2,305
Canada Goose	2,278	716	163	82
Trumpeter Swan	3,354	1,920	1,445	1,788
Tundra Swan	0	2	0	0
Wood Duck	5	5	35	45
Gadwall	1,715	780	13,930	22,615
American Wigeon	40	0	65	50
American Black Duck	0	0	0	2
Mallard	29,510	7,482	9,330	41,055
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	20	10
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	110	161	5,320	7,485

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 03/13/2023
Northern Pintail	25,925	3,505	6,175	37,325
Green-winged Teal	1,295	0	3,010	7,710
Canvasback	5	10	10	0
Redhead	20	10	70	90
Ring-necked Duck	3,680	1,820	21,810	42,175
Scaup	200	40	560	575
Bufflehead	35	15	225	340
Common Goldeneye	800	396	335	75
Hooded Merganser	52	54	119	94
Common Merganser	0	0	0	5
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	25	110
Pied-billed Grebe	0	0	0	2
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	20	10	3,490	5,445

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 03/13/2023
Geese	1,390,918	1,097,404	410,224	232,197
Dabblers	58,600	11,933	37,885	116,297
Divers	4,792	2,345	23,154	43,464
All Ducks	63,392	14,278	61,039	159,761
Shorebirds	0	0	0	43

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 02/22/2023	Total number of birds observed 02/27/2023	Total number of birds observed 03/06/2023	Total number of birds observed 03/13/2023
Immature	7	20	3	4
Adult	10	10	3	5
All Eagles	17	30	6	9