

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

Date: 2023-03-20

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	02/27/2023 data	03/06/2023 data	03/13/2023 data	03/20/2023 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%	15%	5%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 03/20/2023
Greater White-fronted Goose	2,880	305	0	760
Snow Goose	1,085,328	405,655	229,810	59,160
Ross's Goose	8,480	4,101	2,305	1,210
Canada Goose	716	163	82	151
Trumpeter Swan	1,920	1,445	1,788	1,231
Tundra Swan	2	0	0	0
Wood Duck	5	35	45	145
Gadwall	780	13,930	22,615	6,600
American Wigeon	0	65	50	10
American Black Duck	0	0	2	0
Mallard	7,482	9,330	41,055	8,705
Blue-winged Teal	0	20	10	15
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	161	5,320	7,485	12,255

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 03/20/2023
Northern Pintail	3,505	6,175	37,325	2,825
Green-winged Teal	0	3,010	7,710	1,450
Canvasback	10	10	0	0
Redhead	10	70	90	570
Ring-necked Duck	1,820	21,810	42,175	26,730
Scaup	40	560	575	720
Bufflehead	15	225	340	420
Common Goldeneye	396	335	75	60
Hooded Merganser	54	119	94	102
Common Merganser	0	0	5	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	25	110	155
Pied-billed Grebe	0	0	2	1
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	10	3,490	5,445	5,490

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 03/20/2023
Geese	1,097,404	410,224	232,197	61,281
Dabblers	11,933	37,885	116,297	32,005
Divers	2,345	23,154	43,464	28,757
All Ducks	14,278	61,039	159,761	60,762
Shorebirds	0	0	43	29

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 02/27/2023	Total number of birds observed 03/06/2023	Total number of birds observed 03/13/2023	Total number of birds observed 03/20/2023
Immature	20	3	4	14
Adult	10	3	5	9
All Eagles	30	6	9	23