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

Date: 2023-04-03

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	03/13/2023 data	03/20/2023 data	03/28/2023 data	04/03/2023 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,200
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	15%	5%	0%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 03/13/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 03/20/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 03/28/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 04/03/2023
Greater White-fronted Goose	0	760	110	0
Snow Goose	229,810	59,160	2,270	110
Ross's Goose	2,305	1,210	70	15
Canada Goose	82	151	182	94
Trumpeter Swan	1,788	1,231	537	39
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	45	145	671	345
Gadwall	22,615	6,600	11,315	5,660
American Wigeon	50	10	45	15
American Black Duck	2	0	0	0
Mallard	41,055	8,705	2,510	2,465
Blue-winged Teal	10	15	635	17,255
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	7,485	12,255	13,725	25,795

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 03/13/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 03/20/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 03/28/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 04/03/2023
Northern Pintail	37,325	2,825	295	140
Green-winged Teal	7,710	1,450	3,220	10,635
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	90	570	115	10
Ring-necked Duck	42,175	26,730	17,458	2,050
Scaup	575	720	1,185	500
Bufflehead	340	420	475	250
Common Goldeneye	75	60	55	5
Hooded Merganser	94	102	125	105
Common Merganser	5	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	110	155	1,185	1,225
Pied-billed Grebe	2	1	9	67
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	5,445	5,490	9,980	34,880

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 03/13/2023	Total number of birds observed week of 03/20/2023	Total number of birds observed week of 03/28/2023	Total number of birds observed week of 04/03/2023
Geese	232,197	61,281	2,632	219
Dabblers	116,297	32,005	32,416	62,310
Divers	43,464	28,757	20,598	4,125
All Ducks	159,761	60,762	53,014	66,435
Shorebirds	43	29	61	716

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 03/13/2023	Total number of birds observed 03/20/2023	Total number of birds observed 03/28/2023	Total number of birds observed 04/03/2023
Immature	4	14	4	3
Adult	5	9	4	9
All Eagles	9	23	8	12