

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

Date: 2023-11-14

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	10/24/2023 data	10/31/2023 data	11/07/2023 data	11/14/2023 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	1,900	1,900	1,950	1,980
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	35%	0%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 10/24/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 10/31/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 11/07/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 11/14/2023
Greater White-fronted Goose	750	6,735	38,240	13,450
Snow Goose	25	5,920	27,125	16,450
Ross's Goose	0	Present	20	Present
Canada Goose	220	737	579	657
Trumpeter Swan	2	29	118	91
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	100	50	65	15
Gadwall	750	2,560	785	715
American Wigeon	35	10	31	10
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	1,855	20,580	61,345	80,085
Blue-winged Teal	2,920	0	33	5
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	265	935	578	370

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 10/24/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 10/31/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 11/07/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 11/14/2023
Northern Pintail	7,245	11,920	49,550	36,805
Green-winged Teal	13,465	43,930	50,190	51,455
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	0	10	105	0
Ring-necked Duck	755	4,635	16,795	5,605
Scaup	5	10	220	10
Bufflehead	0	0	0	15
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0
Hooded Merganser	0	1	1	13
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	15	10	10	0
Pied-billed Grebe	19	22	19	17
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	1,205	1,095	1,557	416

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 10/24/2023	Total number of birds observed week of 10/31/2023	Total number of birds observed week of 11/07/2023	Total number of birds observed week of 11/14/2023
Geese	995	13,392	65,964	30,557
Dabblers	26,635	79,985	162,577	169,460
Divers	775	4,666	17,131	5,643
All Ducks	27,410	84,651	179,708	175,103
Shorebirds	12	53	149	232

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 10/24/2023	Total number of birds observed 10/31/2023	Total number of birds observed 11/07/2023	Total number of birds observed 11/14/2023
Adult			4	7
Immature			7	14
All Eagles	Present	Present	11	21