

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

Date: 2023-12-19

## 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	11/28/2023 data	12/05/2023 data	12/13/2023 data	12/19/2023 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	2,100	2,165	2,200	2,200
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	95%	5%	75%	85%

## Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 11/28/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 12/05/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 12/13/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 12/19/2023
Greater White-fronted Goose	225	5,875	2,825	3,610
Snow Goose	8,310	32,815	12,135	4,776
Ross's Goose	Present	Present	Present	Present
Canada Goose	552	1,020	978	914
Trumpeter Swan	1,168	2,852	2,043	2,226
Tundra Swan	0	9	8	3
Wood Duck	0	0	0	0
Gadwall	40	10	0	0
American Wigeon	20	5	10	15
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	54,995	77,480	43,665	50,870
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	345	55	120	75

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 11/28/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 12/05/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 12/13/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 12/19/2023
Northern Pintail	640	90	120	720
Green-winged Teal	7,945	8,230	6,830	510
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	1,300	3,405	20	80
Scaup	0	0	0	0
Bufflehead	0	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	0	5	0	5
Hooded Merganser	2	0	2	2
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	0	3	0	0
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	130	115	215	120

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 11/28/2023	Total number of birds observed week of 12/05/2023	Total number of birds observed week of 12/13/2023	Total number of birds observed week of 12/19/2023
Geese	9,087	39,710	15,938	9,300
Dabblers	63,985	85,870	50,745	52,190
Divers	1,302	3,410	22	87
All Ducks	65,287	89,280	50,767	52,277
Shorebirds	4	0	0	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 11/28/2023	Total number of birds observed 12/05/2023	Total number of birds observed 12/13/2023	Total number of birds observed 12/19/2023
Adult	81	82	82	87
Immature	56	59	92	27
All Eagles	137	141	174	114