

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

Date: 2024-01-04

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	12/05/2023 data	12/13/2023 data	12/19/2023 data	01/04/2024 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	2,165	2,200	2,200	2,650
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	5%	75%	85%	55%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 01/04/2024
Greater White-fronted Goose	5,875	2,825	3,610	5,700
Snow Goose	32,815	12,135	4,776	15,045
Ross's Goose	Present	Present	Present	Present
Canada Goose	1,020	978	914	812
Trumpeter Swan	2,852	2,043	2,226	4,199
Tundra Swan	9	8	3	7
Wood Duck	0	0	0	0
Gadwall	10	0	0	195
American Wigeon	5	10	15	20
American Black Duck	0	0	0	2
Mallard	77,480	43,665	50,870	99,960
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	55	120	75	70

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 01/04/2024
Northern Pintail	90	120	720	845
Green-winged Teal	8,230	6,830	510	14,820
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	3,405	20	80	600
Scaup	0	0	0	0
Bufflehead	0	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	5	0	5	55
Hooded Merganser	0	2	2	2
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	3	0	0	0
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	115	215	120	165

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 01/04/2024
Geese	39,710	15,938	9,300	21,557
Dabblers	85,870	50,745	52,190	115,912
Divers	3,410	22	87	657
All Ducks	89,280	50,767	52,277	116,569
Shorebirds	0	0	0	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 12/05/2023	Total number of birds observed 12/13/2023	Total number of birds observed 12/19/2023	Total number of birds observed 01/04/2024
Adult	82	82	87	87
Immature	59	92	27	70
All Eagles	141	174	114	157