

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

Date: 2024-01-11

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	12/13/2023 data	12/19/2023 data	01/04/2024 data	01/11/2024 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	2,200	2,200	2,650	2,900
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	75%	85%	55%	95%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 01/11/2024
Greater White-fronted Goose	2,825	3,610	5,700	510
Snow Goose	12,135	4,776	15,045	3,410
Ross's Goose	Present	Present	Present	Present
Canada Goose	978	914	812	1,828
Trumpeter Swan	2,043	2,226	4,199	2,409
Tundra Swan	8	3	7	7
Wood Duck	0	0	0	0
Gadwall	0	0	195	385
American Wigeon	10	15	20	5
American Black Duck	0	0	2	0
Mallard	43,665	50,870	99,960	25,915
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	120	75	70	220

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 01/11/2024
Northern Pintail	120	720	845	90
Green-winged Teal	6,830	510	14,820	2,185
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	20	80	600	80
Scaup	0	0	0	0
Bufflehead	0	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	0	5	55	0
Hooded Merganser	2	2	2	4
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	0	0	0	3
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	215	120	165	240

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 01/11/2024
Geese	15,938	9,300	21,557	5,748
Dabblers	50,745	52,190	115,912	28,800
Divers	22	87	657	84
All Ducks	50,767	52,277	116,569	28,884
Shorebirds	0	0	0	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 12/13/2023	Total number of birds observed 12/19/2023	Total number of birds observed 01/04/2024	Total number of birds observed 01/11/2024
Adult	82	87	87	118
Immature	92	27	70	75
All Eagles	174	114	157	193