

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

Date: 2024-01-17

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	12/19/2023 data	01/04/2024 data	01/11/2024 data	01/17/2024 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	2,200	2,650	2,900	2,900
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	85%	55%	95%	100%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 01/17/2024
Greater White-fronted Goose	3,610	5,700	510	0
Snow Goose	4,776	15,045	3,410	0
Ross's Goose	Present	Present	Present	0
Canada Goose	914	812	1,828	0
Trumpeter Swan	2,226	4,199	2,409	0
Tundra Swan	3	7	7	0
Wood Duck	0	0	0	0
Gadwall	0	195	385	0
American Wigeon	15	20	5	0
American Black Duck	0	2	0	0
Mallard	50,870	99,960	25,915	0
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	75	70	220	0

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 01/17/2024
Northern Pintail	720	845	90	0
Green-winged Teal	510	14,820	2,185	0
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	80	600	80	0
Scaup	0	0	0	0
Bufflehead	0	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	5	55	0	0
Hooded Merganser	2	2	4	0
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	0	0	3	0
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	120	165	240	0

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 01/17/2024
Geese	9,300	21,557	5,748	0
Dabblers	52,190	115,912	28,800	0
Divers	87	657	84	0
All Ducks	52,277	116,569	28,884	0
Shorebirds	0	0	0	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 12/19/2023	Total number of birds observed 01/04/2024	Total number of birds observed 01/11/2024	Total number of birds observed 01/17/2024
Adult	87	87	118	20
Immature	27	70	75	14
All Eagles	114	157	193	34