

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

Date: 2024-02-02

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	01/04/2024 data	01/11/2024 data	01/17/2024 data	02/02/2024 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	2,650	2,900	2,900	3,100
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	55%	95%	100%	60%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 02/02/2024
Greater White-fronted Goose	5,700	510	0	5,740
Snow Goose	15,045	3,410	0	394,005
Ross's Goose	Present	Present	0	12,200
Canada Goose	812	1,828	0	1,339
Trumpeter Swan	4,199	2,409	0	2,717
Tundra Swan	7	7	0	5
Wood Duck	0	0	0	0
Gadwall	195	385	0	80
American Wigeon	20	5	0	25
American Black Duck	2	0	0	0
Mallard	99,960	25,915	0	9,400
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	70	220	0	15

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 02/02/2024
Northern Pintail	845	90	0	2,091
Green-winged Teal	14,820	2,185	0	872
Canvasback	0	0	0	1
Redhead	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	600	80	0	15
Scaup	0	0	0	0
Bufflehead	0	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	55	0	0	205
Hooded Merganser	2	4	0	7
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	165	240	0	0

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 02/02/2024
Geese	21,557	5,748	0	413,284
Dabblers	115,912	28,800	0	12,483
Divers	657	84	0	228
All Ducks	116,569	28,884	0	12,711
Shorebirds	0	0	0	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 01/04/2024	Total number of birds observed 01/11/2024	Total number of birds observed 01/17/2024	Total number of birds observed 02/02/2024
Adult	87	118	20	10
Immature	70	75	14	1
All Eagles	157	193	34	11