

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

Date: 2024-02-06

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	01/11/2024 data	01/17/2024 data	02/02/2024 data	02/06/2024 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	2,900	2,900	3,100	3,250
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	95%	100%	60%	20%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 02/06/2024
Greater White-fronted Goose	510	0	5,740	14,320
Snow Goose	3,410	0	394,005	626,855
Ross's Goose	Present	0	12,200	17,220
Canada Goose	1,828	0	1,339	607
Trumpeter Swan	2,409	0	2,717	2,602
Tundra Swan	7	0	5	0
Wood Duck	0	0	0	0
Gadwall	385	0	80	375
American Wigeon	5	0	25	30
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	25,915	0	9,400	19,650
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	220	0	15	65

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 02/06/2024
Northern Pintail	90	0	2,091	5,640
Green-winged Teal	2,185	0	872	1,420
Canvasback	0	0	1	2
Redhead	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	80	0	15	185
Scaup	0	0	0	0
Bufflehead	0	0	0	10
Common Goldeneye	0	0	205	385
Hooded Merganser	4	0	7	36
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	240	0	0	0

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 02/06/2024
Geese	5,748	0	413,284	659,002
Dabblers	28,800	0	12,483	27,180
Divers	84	0	228	618
All Ducks	28,884	0	12,711	27,798
Shorebirds	0	0	0	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 01/11/2024	Total number of birds observed 01/17/2024	Total number of birds observed 02/02/2024	Total number of birds observed 02/06/2024
Adult	118	20	10	11
Immature	75	14	1	12
All Eagles	193	34	11	23