

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

Date: 2024-02-22

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	02/02/2024 data	02/06/2024 data	02/13/2024 data	02/22/2024 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,100	3,250	3,400	3,400
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	60%	20%	0%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 02/02/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 02/06/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 02/13/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 02/22/2024
Greater White-fronted Goose	5,740	14,320	2,385	4,795
Snow Goose	394,005	626,855	1,234,017	580,375
Ross's Goose	12,200	17,220	34,500	Present
Canada Goose	1,339	607	655	488
Trumpeter Swan	2,717	2,602	2,097	3,242
Tundra Swan	5	0	3	0
Wood Duck	0	0	0	10
Gadwall	80	375	355	1,225
American Wigeon	25	30	7	55
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	9,400	19,650	26,688	16,235
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	15	65	70	420

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 02/02/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 02/06/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 02/13/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 02/22/2024
Northern Pintail	2,091	5,640	8,080	5,730
Green-winged Teal	872	1,420	2,960	1,251
Canvasback	1	2	3	0
Redhead	0	0	0	50
Ring-necked Duck	15	185	446	3,669
Scaup	0	0	10	70
Bufflehead	0	10	7	64
Common Goldeneye	205	385	437	295
Hooded Merganser	7	36	57	75
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	0
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	0	0	2	85

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 02/02/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 02/06/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 02/13/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 02/22/2024
Geese	413,284	659,002	1,271,557	585,658
Dabblers	12,483	27,180	38,160	24,926
Divers	228	618	960	4,223
All Ducks	12,711	27,798	39,120	29,149
Shorebirds	0	0	0	1

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 02/02/2024	Total number of birds observed 02/06/2024	Total number of birds observed 02/13/2024	Total number of birds observed 02/22/2024
Adult	10	11	9	31
Immature	1	12	9	68
All Eagles	11	23	18	99