

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

Date: 2024-02-29

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	02/06/2024 data	02/13/2024 data	02/22/2024 data	02/29/2024 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,250	3,400	3,400	3,400
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	20%	0%	0%	15%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 02/29/2024
Greater White-fronted Goose	14,320	2,385	4,795	605
Snow Goose	626,855	1,234,017	580,375	392,435
Ross's Goose	17,220	34,500	Present	Present
Canada Goose	607	655	488	249
Trumpeter Swan	2,602	2,097	3,242	1,820
Tundra Swan	0	3	0	0
Wood Duck	0	0	10	10
Gadwall	375	355	1,225	3,515
American Wigeon	30	7	55	125
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	19,650	26,688	16,235	18,740
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	65	70	420	455

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 02/29/2024
Northern Pintail	5,640	8,080	5,730	12,855
Green-winged Teal	1,420	2,960	1,251	1,495
Canvasback	2	3	0	0
Redhead	0	0	50	20
Ring-necked Duck	185	446	3,669	9,300
Scaup	0	10	70	195
Bufflehead	10	7	64	50
Common Goldeneye	385	437	295	133
Hooded Merganser	36	57	75	69
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	15
Pied-billed Grebe	0	0	0	0
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	0	2	85	105

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 02/29/2024
Geese	659,002	1,271,557	585,658	393,289
Dabblers	27,180	38,160	24,926	37,195
Divers	618	960	4,223	9,782
All Ducks	27,798	39,120	29,149	46,977
Shorebirds	0	0	1	1

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 02/06/2024	Total number of birds observed 02/13/2024	Total number of birds observed 02/22/2024	Total number of birds observed 02/29/2024
Adult	11	9	31	40
Immature	12	9	68	97
All Eagles	23	18	99	137