

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

Date: 2024-04-17

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	03/19/2024 data	03/26/2024 data	04/09/2024 data	04/17/2024 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Fair	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	0%	0%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 03/19/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 03/26/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 04/09/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 04/17/2024
Greater White-fronted Goose	1,000	0	0	0
Snow Goose	13,240	60	40	35
Ross's Goose	4	5	6	0
Canada Goose	88	51	43	29
Trumpeter Swan	359	260	0	0
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	95	38	150	35
Gadwall	2,685	1,837	2,235	1,255
American Wigeon	15	10	65	25
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	1,755	445	194	115
Blue-winged Teal	221	968	2,525	4,270
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	3,890	6,511	5,315	1,750

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 03/19/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 03/26/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 04/09/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 04/17/2024
Northern Pintail	75	100	60	35
Green-winged Teal	957	2,290	251	145
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	15	10	0	1
Ring-necked Duck	2,685	697	145	65
Scaup	65	180	35	5
Bufflehead	205	220	28	1
Common Goldeneye	40	50	0	0
Hooded Merganser	76	44	19	35
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	17	85	20
Pied-billed Grebe	7	18	73	42
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	2,426	3,477	7,980	2,760

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 03/19/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 03/26/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 04/09/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 04/17/2024
Geese	14,332	116	89	64
Dabblers	9,693	12,199	10,795	7,630
Divers	3,086	1,218	312	127
All Ducks	12,779	13,417	11,107	7,757
Shorebirds	57	114	253	675

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 03/19/2024	Total number of birds observed 03/26/2024	Total number of birds observed 04/09/2024	Total number of birds observed 04/17/2024
Adult	6	7	8	6
Immature	10	9	0	0
All Eagles	16	16	8	6