

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

Date: 2024-04-23

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	03/26/2024 data	04/09/2024 data	04/17/2024 data	04/23/2024 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Fair	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 03/26/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 04/09/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 04/17/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 04/23/2024
Greater White-fronted Goose	0	0	0	0
Snow Goose	60	40	35	14
Ross's Goose	5	6	0	0
Canada Goose	51	43	29	62
Trumpeter Swan	260	0	0	0
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	38	150	35	136
Gadwall	1,837	2,235	1,255	1,267
American Wigeon	10	65	25	16
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	445	194	115	56
Blue-winged Teal	968	2,525	4,270	2,539
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	6,511	5,315	1,750	794

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 04/23/2024
Northern Pintail	100	60	35	20
Green-winged Teal	2,290	251	145	80
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	10	0	1	0
Ring-necked Duck	697	145	65	23
Scaup	180	35	5	25
Bufflehead	220	28	1	0
Common Goldeneye	50	0	0	0
Hooded Merganser	44	19	35	38
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	17	85	20	10
Pied-billed Grebe	18	73	42	49
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	3,477	7,980	2,760	2,726

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 04/23/2024
Geese	116	89	64	76
Dabblers	12,199	10,795	7,630	4,908
Divers	1,218	312	127	96
All Ducks	13,417	11,107	7,757	5,004
Shorebirds	114	253	675	1,568

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 03/26/2024	Total number of birds observed 04/09/2024	Total number of birds observed 04/17/2024	Total number of birds observed 04/23/2024
Adult	7	8	6	6
Immature	9	0	0	1
All Eagles	16	8	6	7