

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

Date: 2024-11-26

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	11/05/2024 data	11/12/2024 data	11/20/2024 data	11/26/2024 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,260	3,300	3,300	3,430
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	0%	0%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 11/05/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 11/12/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 11/20/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 11/26/2024
Greater White-fronted Goose	405	690	10,430	16,490
Snow Goose	0	700	3,800	33,300
Ross's Goose	0	0	Present	Present
Canada Goose	258	725	1,614	2,503
Trumpeter Swan	0	64	144	1,063
Tundra Swan	0	0	2	4
Wood Duck	830	670	500	275
Gadwall	1,715	3,700	6,446	7,855
American Wigeon	25	15	85	105
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	18,250	32,570	85,365	123,646
Blue-winged Teal	50	15	5	10
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	295	290	500	2,540

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 11/05/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 11/12/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 11/20/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 11/26/2024
Northern Pintail	58,200	31,845	42,030	60,280
Green-winged Teal	38,185	95,510	120,705	84,250
Canvasback	3	0	43	97
Redhead	0	60	215	100
Ring-necked Duck	2,180	7,145	16,000	31,470
Scaup	15	40	220	60
Bufflehead	0	0	2	20
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0
Hooded Merganser	0	3	4	6
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	15	15
Pied-billed Grebe	75	13	9	14
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	6,535	4,960	1,450	2,235

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 11/05/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 11/12/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 11/20/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 11/26/2024
Geese	663	2,115	15,844	52,293
Dabblers	117,550	164,615	255,636	278,961
Divers	2,198	7,248	16,499	31,768
All Ducks	119,748	171,863	272,135	310,729
Shorebirds	1	0	0	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 11/05/2024	Total number of birds observed 11/12/2024	Total number of birds observed 11/20/2024	Total number of birds observed 11/26/2024
Adult			7	48
Immature			11	36
All Eagles	Present	Present	18	84