

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

Date: 2024-11-12

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	10/22/2024 data	10/29/2024 data	11/05/2024 data	11/12/2024 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	2,800	3,080	3,260	3,300
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	0%	0%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 10/22/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 10/29/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 11/05/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 11/12/2024
Greater White-fronted Goose	300	245	405	690
Snow Goose	0	0	0	700
Ross's Goose	0	0	0	0
Canada Goose	76	327	258	725
Trumpeter Swan	0	0	0	64
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	305	310	830	670
Gadwall	200	1,355	1,715	3,700
American Wigeon	25	140	25	15
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	250	430	18,250	32,570
Blue-winged Teal	195	75	50	15
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	155	210	295	290

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 10/22/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 10/29/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 11/05/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 11/12/2024
Northern Pintail	18,400	19,530	58,200	31,845
Green-winged Teal	5,920	20,325	38,185	95,510
Canvasback	0	0	3	0
Redhead	0	0	0	60
Ring-necked Duck	900	3,205	2,180	7,145
Scaup	0	0	15	40
Bufflehead	0	1	0	0
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0
Hooded Merganser	1	1	0	3
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	43	23	75	13
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	2,130	3,530	6,535	4,960

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 10/22/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 10/29/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 11/05/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 11/12/2024
Geese	376	572	663	2,115
Dabblers	25,450	42,375	117,550	164,615
Divers	901	3,207	2,198	7,248
All Ducks	26,351	45,582	119,748	171,863
Shorebirds	24	20	1	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 10/22/2024	Total number of birds observed 10/29/2024	Total number of birds observed 11/05/2024	Total number of birds observed 11/12/2024
Adult				
Immature				
All Eagles	Present	Present	Present	Present