

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

Date: 2024-10-29

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	10/08/2024 data	10/16/2024 data	10/22/2024 data	10/29/2024 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	2,670	2,670	2,800	3,080
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	0%	0%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 10/08/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 10/16/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 10/22/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 10/29/2024
Greater White-fronted Goose	0	0	300	245
Snow Goose	0	0	0	0
Ross's Goose	0	0	0	0
Canada Goose	39	12	76	327
Trumpeter Swan	0	0	0	0
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	51	110	305	310
Gadwall	10	200	200	1,355
American Wigeon	20	30	25	140
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	0	5	250	430
Blue-winged Teal	2,064	0	195	75
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	10	25	155	210

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 10/08/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 10/16/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 10/22/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 10/29/2024
Northern Pintail	3,902	20,415	18,400	19,530
Green-winged Teal	1,962	3,270	5,920	20,325
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	0	1,325	900	3,205
Scaup	0	0	0	0
Bufflehead	0	0	0	1
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0
Hooded Merganser	0	0	1	1
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	48	24	43	23
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	1,000	2,095	2,130	3,530

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 10/08/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 10/16/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 10/22/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 10/29/2024
Geese	39	12	376	572
Dabblers	8,019	24,055	25,450	42,375
Divers	0	1,325	901	3,207
All Ducks	8,019	25,380	26,351	45,582
Shorebirds	52	55	24	20

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 10/08/2024	Total number of birds observed 10/16/2024	Total number of birds observed 10/22/2024	Total number of birds observed 10/29/2024
Adult				
Immature				
All Eagles	Present	Present	Present	Present