

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

Date: 2024-12-03

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	11/12/2024 data	11/20/2024 data	11/26/2024 data	12/03/2024 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,300	3,300	3,430	3,430
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	0%	0%	75%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 12/03/2024
Greater White-fronted Goose	690	10,430	16,490	13,090
Snow Goose	700	3,800	33,300	41,250
Ross's Goose	0	Present	Present	Present
Canada Goose	725	1,614	2,503	1,062
Trumpeter Swan	64	144	1,063	2,688
Tundra Swan	0	2	4	6
Wood Duck	670	500	275	40
Gadwall	3,700	6,446	7,855	580
American Wigeon	15	85	105	10
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	32,570	85,365	123,646	116,690
Blue-winged Teal	15	5	10	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	290	500	2,540	400

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 12/03/2024
Northern Pintail	31,845	42,030	60,280	8,115
Green-winged Teal	95,510	120,705	84,250	37,330
Canvasback	0	43	97	7
Redhead	60	215	100	25
Ring-necked Duck	7,145	16,000	31,470	9,065
Scaup	40	220	60	25
Bufflehead	0	2	20	0
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0
Hooded Merganser	3	4	6	9
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	15	15	5
Pied-billed Grebe	13	9	14	0
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	4,960	1,450	2,235	315

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 12/03/2024
Geese	2,115	15,844	52,293	55,402
Dabblers	164,615	255,636	278,961	163,165
Divers	7,248	16,499	31,768	9,136
All Ducks	171,863	272,135	310,729	172,301
Shorebirds	0	0	0	3

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 11/12/2024	Total number of birds observed 11/20/2024	Total number of birds observed 11/26/2024	Total number of birds observed 12/03/2024
Adult		7	48	210
Immature		11	36	163
All Eagles	Present	18	84	373