

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

Date: 2025-01-08

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	12/10/2024 data	12/17/2024 data	01/03/2025 data	01/08/2025 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	35%	30%	75%	99%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 12/10/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 12/17/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 01/03/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 01/08/2025
Greater White-fronted Goose	2,565	5,735	1,420	37
Snow Goose	38,917	241	70	145
Ross's Goose	Present	Present	0	0
Canada Goose	1,716	2,107	2,438	106
Trumpeter Swan	3,741	3,779	3,108	959
Tundra Swan	10	6	2	1
Wood Duck	10	5	0	0
Gadwall	110	23	85	0
American Wigeon	5	10	10	0
American Black Duck	0	0	1	0
Mallard	48,878	50,752	18,037	664
Blue-winged Teal	5	5	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	390	142	20	5

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 12/10/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 12/17/2024	Number of Birds observed week of 01/03/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 01/08/2025
Northern Pintail	8,971	1,590	743	0
Green-winged Teal	3,035	230	30	0
Canvasback	15	3	0	0
Redhead	185	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	185	3	1	0
Scaup	10	1	0	0
Bufflehead	0	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	5	18	18	0
Hooded Merganser	11	8	22	0
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	25	2	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	0	0	0	0
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	30	25	3	1

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 12/10/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 12/17/2024	Total number of birds observed week of 01/03/2025	Total number of birds observed week of 01/08/2025
Geese	43,198	8,083	3,928	288
Dabblers	61,404	52,757	18,926	669
Divers	436	35	41	0
All Ducks	61,840	52,792	18,967	669
Shorebirds	0	0	0	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 12/10/2024	Total number of birds observed 12/17/2024	Total number of birds observed 01/03/2025	Total number of birds observed 01/08/2025
Adult	268	318	129	122
Immature	276	293	160	176
All Eagles	544	611	289	298