

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

Date: 2025-03-04

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	02/11/2025 data	02/21/2025 data	02/25/2025 data	03/04/2025 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	99%	100%	100%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 02/11/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 02/21/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 02/25/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 03/04/2025
Greater White-fronted Goose	0	0	0	315
Snow Goose	26,930	0	136,500	54,080
Ross's Goose	2	0	Present	Present
Canada Goose	170	0	63	352
Trumpeter Swan	804	0	196	1,603
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	3
Wood Duck	0	0	0	4
Gadwall	0	0	0	435
American Wigeon	0	0	0	5
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	720	0	110	7,856
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	5	0	0	345

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 02/11/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 02/21/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 02/25/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 03/04/2025
Northern Pintail	310	0	0	7,935
Green-winged Teal	0	0	0	61
Canvasback	0	0	0	15
Redhead	0	0	0	27
Ring-necked Duck	90	0	0	4,290
Scaup	0	0	0	170
Bufflehead	0	0	0	50
Common Goldeneye	3	0	0	469
Hooded Merganser	0	0	0	36
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	0	0	0	2
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	0	0	0	80

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 02/11/2025	Total number of birds observed week of 02/21/2025	Total number of birds observed week of 02/25/2025	Total number of birds observed week of 03/04/2025
Geese	27,102	0	136,563	54,747
Dabblers	1,035	0	110	16,641
Divers	93	0	0	5,057
All Ducks	1,128	0	110	21,698
Shorebirds	0	0	0	3

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 02/11/2025	Total number of birds observed 02/21/2025	Total number of birds observed 02/25/2025	Total number of birds observed 03/04/2025
Adult	104	11	48	12
Immature	84	7	33	7
All Eagles	188	18	81	19