

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

Date: 2025-03-11

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

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 03/11/2025
Greater White-fronted Goose	0	0	315	740
Snow Goose	0	136,500	54,080	878,170
Ross's Goose	0	Present	Present	Present
Canada Goose	0	63	352	237
Trumpeter Swan	0	196	1,603	681
Tundra Swan	0	0	3	1
Wood Duck	0	0	4	120
Gadwall	0	0	435	1,795
American Wigeon	0	0	5	65
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	0	110	7,856	2,580
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	10
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	0	0	345	170

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 03/11/2025
Northern Pintail	0	0	7,935	1,465
Green-winged Teal	0	0	61	1,420
Canvasback	0	0	15	0
Redhead	0	0	27	35
Ring-necked Duck	0	0	4,290	12,850
Scaup	0	0	170	735
Bufflehead	0	0	50	100
Common Goldeneye	0	0	469	101
Hooded Merganser	0	0	36	94
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	3
Pied-billed Grebe	0	0	2	3
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	0	0	80	1,555

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 03/11/2025
Geese	0	136,563	54,747	879,147
Dabblers	0	110	16,641	7,625
Divers	0	0	5,057	13,918
All Ducks	0	110	21,698	21,543
Shorebirds	0	0	3	45

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 02/21/2025	Total number of birds observed 02/25/2025	Total number of birds observed 03/04/2025	Total number of birds observed 03/11/2025
Adult	11	48	12	6
Immature	7	33	7	9
All Eagles	18	81	19	15