

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

Date: 2025-03-18

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	02/25/2025 data	03/04/2025 data	03/11/2025 data	03/18/2025 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%	0%	0%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 03/18/2025
Greater White-fronted Goose	0	315	740	55
Snow Goose	136,500	54,080	878,170	7,166
Ross's Goose	Present	Present	Present	11
Canada Goose	63	352	237	50
Trumpeter Swan	196	1,603	681	227
Tundra Swan	0	3	1	0
Wood Duck	0	4	120	102
Gadwall	0	435	1,795	2,330
American Wigeon	0	5	65	10
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	110	7,856	2,580	832
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	10	193
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	0	345	170	3,125

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 03/18/2025
Northern Pintail	0	7,935	1,465	125
Green-winged Teal	0	61	1,420	1,075
Canvasback	0	15	0	0
Redhead	0	27	35	15
Ring-necked Duck	0	4,290	12,850	6,040
Scaup	0	170	735	210
Bufflehead	0	50	100	30
Common Goldeneye	0	469	101	57
Hooded Merganser	0	36	94	53
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	3	30
Pied-billed Grebe	0	2	3	5
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	0	80	1,555	2,458

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 03/18/2025
Geese	136,563	54,747	879,147	7,282
Dabblers	110	16,641	7,625	7,792
Divers	0	5,057	13,918	6,435
All Ducks	110	21,698	21,543	14,227
Shorebirds	0	3	45	15

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 02/25/2025	Total number of birds observed 03/04/2025	Total number of birds observed 03/11/2025	Total number of birds observed 03/18/2025
Adult	48	12	6	6
Immature	33	7	9	2
All Eagles	81	19	15	8