

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

Date: 2025-03-25

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	03/04/2025 data	03/11/2025 data	03/18/2025 data	03/25/2025 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	0%	0%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 03/25/2025
Greater White-fronted Goose	315	740	55	231
Snow Goose	54,080	878,170	7,166	8,095
Ross's Goose	Present	Present	11	14
Canada Goose	352	237	50	70
Trumpeter Swan	1,603	681	227	106
Tundra Swan	3	1	0	0
Wood Duck	4	120	102	605
Gadwall	435	1,795	2,330	1,470
American Wigeon	5	65	10	5
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	7,856	2,580	832	2,170
Blue-winged Teal	0	10	193	1,090
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	345	170	3,125	6,835

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 03/25/2025
Northern Pintail	7,935	1,465	125	335
Green-winged Teal	61	1,420	1,075	660
Canvasback	15	0	0	0
Redhead	27	35	15	0
Ring-necked Duck	4,290	12,850	6,040	6,905
Scaup	170	735	210	50
Bufflehead	50	100	30	153
Common Goldeneye	469	101	57	2
Hooded Merganser	36	94	53	90
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	3	30	70
Pied-billed Grebe	2	3	5	22
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	80	1,555	2,458	6,390

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 03/25/2025
Geese	54,747	879,147	7,282	8,410
Dabblers	16,641	7,625	7,792	13,170
Divers	5,057	13,918	6,435	7,270
All Ducks	21,698	21,543	14,227	20,440
Shorebirds	3	45	15	64

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 03/04/2025	Total number of birds observed 03/11/2025	Total number of birds observed 03/18/2025	Total number of birds observed 03/25/2025
Adult	12	6	6	6
Immature	7	9	2	0
All Eagles	19	15	8	6