

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

Date: 2025-04-02

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	03/11/2025 data	03/18/2025 data	03/25/2025 data	04/02/2025 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 03/11/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 03/18/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 03/25/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 04/02/2025
Greater White-fronted Goose	740	55	231	0
Snow Goose	878,170	7,166	8,095	2,615
Ross's Goose	Present	11	14	7
Canada Goose	237	50	70	27
Trumpeter Swan	681	227	106	69
Tundra Swan	1	0	0	0
Wood Duck	120	102	605	155
Gadwall	1,795	2,330	1,470	1,105
American Wigeon	65	10	5	55
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	2,580	832	2,170	655
Blue-winged Teal	10	193	1,090	2,275
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	170	3,125	6,835	6,330

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 04/02/2025
Northern Pintail	1,465	125	335	165
Green-winged Teal	1,420	1,075	660	155
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	35	15	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	12,850	6,040	6,905	4,285
Scaup	735	210	50	20
Bufflehead	100	30	153	20
Common Goldeneye	101	57	2	2
Hooded Merganser	94	53	90	26
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	3	30	70	215
Pied-billed Grebe	3	5	22	26
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	1,555	2,458	6,390	4,995

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 04/02/2025
Geese	879,147	7,282	8,410	2,649
Dabblers	7,625	7,792	13,170	10,895
Divers	13,918	6,435	7,270	4,568
All Ducks	21,543	14,227	20,440	15,463
Shorebirds	45	15	64	78

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 03/11/2025	Total number of birds observed 03/18/2025	Total number of birds observed 03/25/2025	Total number of birds observed 04/02/2025
Adult	6	6	6	10
Immature	9	2	0	5
All Eagles	15	8	6	15