

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

Date: 2025-05-13

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	04/02/2025 data	04/23/2025 data	05/09/2025 data	05/13/2025 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,500	3,300	3,100	2,900
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	0%	0%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 04/02/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 04/23/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 05/09/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 05/13/2025
Greater White-fronted Goose	0	0	2	2
Snow Goose	2,615	132	68	36
Ross's Goose	7	2	0	0
Canada Goose	27	64	161	65
Trumpeter Swan	69	0	1	1
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	155	49	152	100
Gadwall	1,105	748	10	10
American Wigeon	55	0	0	0
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	655	37	36	20
Blue-winged Teal	2,275	2,415	1,058	393
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	6,330	634	195	81

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 04/02/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 04/23/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 05/09/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 05/13/2025
Northern Pintail	165	36	15	8
Green-winged Teal	155	13	5	0
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	4,285	205	4	2
Scaup	20	2	0	0
Bufflehead	20	1	0	0
Common Goldeneye	2	0	0	0
Hooded Merganser	26	73	21	13
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	215	3	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	26	43	29	9
Horned Grebe	0	2	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	4,995	1,577	109	11

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 04/02/2025	Total number of birds observed week of 04/23/2025	Total number of birds observed week of 05/09/2025	Total number of birds observed week of 05/13/2025
Geese	2,649	198	231	103
Dabblers	10,895	3,932	1,471	612
Divers	4,568	284	25	15
All Ducks	15,463	4,216	1,496	627
Shorebirds	78	2,344	1,059	529

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 04/02/2025	Total number of birds observed 04/23/2025	Total number of birds observed 05/09/2025	Total number of birds observed 05/13/2025
Adult	10			
Immature	5			
All Eagles	15	Present	Present	Present