

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

Date: 2025-11-25

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	09/16/2025 data	09/23/2025 data	11/20/2025 data	11/25/2025 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	1,750	1,980	3,250	3,300
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	0%	0%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 09/16/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 09/23/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 11/20/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 11/25/2025
Greater White-fronted Goose	0	0	11,500	2,740
Snow Goose	0	0	4,310	14,300
Ross's Goose	0	0	Present	Present
Canada Goose	0	2	238	503
Trumpeter Swan	0	0	513	730
Tundra Swan	0	0	4	1
Wood Duck	5	11	215	405
Gadwall	0	0	8,255	4,395
American Wigeon	0	0	0	0
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	0	0	54,505	43,305
Blue-winged Teal	449	155	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	0	20	460	780

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 09/16/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 09/23/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 11/20/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 11/25/2025
Northern Pintail	25	0	52,635	18,560
Green-winged Teal	0	0	17,345	3,360
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	0	0	15	10
Ring-necked Duck	0	0	5,945	4,685
Scaup	0	0	0	5
Bufflehead	0	0	2	3
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0
Hooded Merganser	0	0	9	20
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	0	4	12	7
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	0	5	1,125	1,201

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 09/16/2025	Total number of birds observed week of 09/23/2025	Total number of birds observed week of 11/20/2025	Total number of birds observed week of 11/25/2025
Geese	0	2	16,048	17,543
Dabblers	479	186	133,415	70,805
Divers	0	0	5,971	4,723
All Ducks	479	186	139,386	75,528
Shorebirds	2	0	0	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 09/16/2025	Total number of birds observed 09/23/2025	Total number of birds observed 11/20/2025	Total number of birds observed 11/25/2025
Adult			10	12
Immature			7	19
All Eagles	Present	Present	17	31