

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

Date: 2025-12-09

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	11/20/2025 data	11/25/2025 data	12/02/2025 data	12/09/2025 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,250	3,300	3,300	3,330
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	0%	98%	99%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 11/20/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 11/25/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 12/02/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 12/09/2025
Greater White-fronted Goose	11,500	2,740	34,800	17,545
Snow Goose	4,310	14,300	14,215	544
Ross's Goose	Present	Present	Present	2
Canada Goose	238	503	819	374
Trumpeter Swan	513	730	1,645	1,977
Tundra Swan	4	1	12	13
Wood Duck	215	405	0	3
Gadwall	8,255	4,395	60	0
American Wigeon	0	0	0	0
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	54,505	43,305	37,345	4,883
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	460	780	100	0

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 11/20/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 11/25/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 12/02/2025	Number of Birds observed week of 12/09/2025
Northern Pintail	52,635	18,560	400	25
Green-winged Teal	17,345	3,360	1,900	190
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	15	10	5	0
Ring-necked Duck	5,945	4,685	65	40
Scaup	0	5	0	0
Bufflehead	2	3	0	0
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0
Hooded Merganser	9	20	15	0
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	5	0
Pied-billed Grebe	12	7	3	0
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	1,125	1,201	215	9

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 11/20/2025	Total number of birds observed week of 11/25/2025	Total number of birds observed week of 12/02/2025	Total number of birds observed week of 12/09/2025
Geese	16,048	17,543	49,834	18,465
Dabblers	133,415	70,805	39,805	5,101
Divers	5,971	4,723	90	40
All Ducks	139,386	75,528	39,895	5,141
Shorebirds	0	0	0	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 11/20/2025	Total number of birds observed 11/25/2025	Total number of birds observed 12/02/2025	Total number of birds observed 12/09/2025
Adult	10	12	106	202
Immature	7	19	126	314
All Eagles	17	31	232	516