

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

Date: 2025-12-16

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	11/25/2025 data	12/02/2025 data	12/09/2025 data	12/16/2025 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,300	3,300	3,330	3,330
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	98%	99%	99%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 12/16/2025
Greater White-fronted Goose	2,740	34,800	17,545	5,580
Snow Goose	14,300	14,215	544	16,000
Ross's Goose	Present	Present	2	Present
Canada Goose	503	819	374	51
Trumpeter Swan	730	1,645	1,977	1,994
Tundra Swan	1	12	13	2
Wood Duck	405	0	3	0
Gadwall	4,395	60	0	0
American Wigeon	0	0	0	0
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	43,305	37,345	4,883	8,425
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	780	100	0	15

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 12/16/2025
Northern Pintail	18,560	400	25	5
Green-winged Teal	3,360	1,900	190	0
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	10	5	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	4,685	65	40	0
Scaup	5	0	0	0
Bufflehead	3	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0
Hooded Merganser	20	15	0	0
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	5	0	2
Pied-billed Grebe	7	3	0	1
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	1,201	215	9	0

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 12/16/2025
Geese	17,543	49,834	18,465	21,631
Dabblers	70,805	39,805	5,101	8,445
Divers	4,723	90	40	2
All Ducks	75,528	39,895	5,141	8,447
Shorebirds	0	0	0	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 11/25/2025	Total number of birds observed 12/02/2025	Total number of birds observed 12/09/2025	Total number of birds observed 12/16/2025
Adult	12	106	202	214
Immature	19	126	314	345
All Eagles	31	232	516	559