

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

Date: 2025-12-30

### 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	12/02/2025 data	12/09/2025 data	12/16/2025 data	12/30/2025 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,300	3,330	3,330	3,330
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	98%	99%	99%	99%

### Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 12/30/2025
Greater White-fronted Goose	34,800	17,545	5,580	3,761
Snow Goose	14,215	544	16,000	435
Ross's Goose	Present	2	Present	Present
Canada Goose	819	374	51	475
Trumpeter Swan	1,645	1,977	1,994	3,158
Tundra Swan	12	13	2	4
Wood Duck	0	3	0	0
Gadwall	60	0	0	36
American Wigeon	0	0	0	0
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	37,345	4,883	8,425	11,991
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	100	0	15	35

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 12/30/2025
Northern Pintail	400	25	5	3
Green-winged Teal	1,900	190	0	1,220
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	5	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	65	40	0	0
Scaup	0	0	0	0
Bufflehead	0	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0
Hooded Merganser	15	0	0	0
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	5	0	2	0
Pied-billed Grebe	3	0	1	0
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	215	9	0	0

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 12/30/2025
Geese	49,834	18,465	21,631	4,671
Dabblers	39,805	5,101	8,445	13,285
Divers	90	40	2	0
All Ducks	39,895	5,141	8,447	13,285
Shorebirds	0	0	0	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 12/02/2025	Total number of birds observed 12/09/2025	Total number of birds observed 12/16/2025	Total number of birds observed 12/30/2025
Adult	106	202	214	359
Immature	126	314	345	653
All Eagles	232	516	559	1,012