

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

Date: 2026-01-06

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	12/09/2025 data	12/16/2025 data	12/30/2025 data	01/06/2026 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,330	3,330	3,330	3,400
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	99%	99%	99%	80%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 01/06/2026
Greater White-fronted Goose	17,545	5,580	3,761	4,665
Snow Goose	544	16,000	435	20,105
Ross's Goose	2	Present	Present	Present
Canada Goose	374	51	475	912
Trumpeter Swan	1,977	1,994	3,158	3,422
Tundra Swan	13	2	4	0
Wood Duck	3	0	0	0
Gadwall	0	0	36	5
American Wigeon	0	0	0	0
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	4,883	8,425	11,991	7,030
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	0	15	35	1

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 01/06/2026
Northern Pintail	25	5	3	6
Green-winged Teal	190	0	1,220	105
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	40	0	0	30
Scaup	0	0	0	4
Bufflehead	0	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	151
Hooded Merganser	0	0	0	5
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	2	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	0	1	0	0
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	9	0	0	5

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 01/06/2026
Geese	18,465	21,631	4,671	25,682
Dabblers	5,101	8,445	13,285	7,147
Divers	40	2	0	190
All Ducks	5,141	8,447	13,285	7,337
Shorebirds	0	0	0	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 12/09/2025	Total number of birds observed 12/16/2025	Total number of birds observed 12/30/2025	Total number of birds observed 01/06/2026
Adult	202	214	359	173
Immature	314	345	653	311
All Eagles	516	559	1,012	484