

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

Date: 2026-01-13

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	12/16/2025 data	12/30/2025 data	01/06/2026 data	01/13/2026 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,330	3,330	3,400	3,400
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	99%	99%	80%	5%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 01/13/2026
Greater White-fronted Goose	5,580	3,761	4,665	1,502
Snow Goose	16,000	435	20,105	27,040
Ross's Goose	Present	Present	Present	270
Canada Goose	51	475	912	562
Trumpeter Swan	1,994	3,158	3,422	4,039
Tundra Swan	2	4	0	5
Wood Duck	0	0	0	0
Gadwall	0	36	5	0
American Wigeon	0	0	0	0
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	8,425	11,991	7,030	7,961
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	15	35	1	0

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 01/13/2026
Northern Pintail	5	3	6	0
Green-winged Teal	0	1,220	105	0
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	0	0	30	5
Scaup	0	0	4	0
Bufflehead	0	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	0	0	151	602
Hooded Merganser	0	0	5	2
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	2	0	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	1	0	0	0
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	0	0	5	5

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 01/13/2026
Geese	21,631	4,671	25,682	29,374
Dabblers	8,445	13,285	7,147	7,961
Divers	2	0	190	609
All Ducks	8,447	13,285	7,337	8,570
Shorebirds	0	0	0	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 12/16/2025	Total number of birds observed 12/30/2025	Total number of birds observed 01/06/2026	Total number of birds observed 01/13/2026
Adult	214	359	173	39
Immature	345	653	311	122
All Eagles	559	1,012	484	161