

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

Date: 2026-01-21

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	12/30/2025 data	01/06/2026 data	01/13/2026 data	01/21/2026 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,330	3,400	3,400	3,400
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	99%	80%	5%	99%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 01/21/2026
Greater White-fronted Goose	3,761	4,665	1,502	1,335
Snow Goose	435	20,105	27,040	9,770
Ross's Goose	Present	Present	270	Present
Canada Goose	475	912	562	65
Trumpeter Swan	3,158	3,422	4,039	1,530
Tundra Swan	4	0	5	0
Wood Duck	0	0	0	0
Gadwall	36	5	0	5
American Wigeon	0	0	0	0
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	11,991	7,030	7,961	10,800
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	35	1	0	0

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 01/21/2026
Northern Pintail	3	6	0	15
Green-winged Teal	1,220	105	0	0
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	0	30	5	0
Scaup	0	4	0	0
Bufflehead	0	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	0	151	602	0
Hooded Merganser	0	5	2	0
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	0	0	0	0
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	0	5	5	0

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 01/13/2026
Geese	4,671	25,682	29,374	11,170
Dabblers	13,285	7,147	7,961	10,820
Divers	0	190	609	0
All Ducks	13,285	7,337	8,570	10,820
Shorebirds	0	0	0	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 12/30/2025	Total number of birds observed 01/06/2026	Total number of birds observed 01/13/2026	Total number of birds observed 01/13/2026
Adult	359	173	39	54
Immature	653	311	122	69
All Eagles	1,012	484	161	123