

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

Date: 2026-01-27

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	01/06/2026 data	01/13/2026 data	01/21/2026 data	01/27/2026 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	80%	5%	99%	99%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 01/27/2026
Greater White-fronted Goose	4,665	1,502	1,335	240
Snow Goose	20,105	27,040	9,770	4,900
Ross's Goose	Present	270	Present	Present
Canada Goose	912	562	65	0
Trumpeter Swan	3,422	4,039	1,530	194
Tundra Swan	0	5	0	1
Wood Duck	0	0	0	0
Gadwall	5	0	5	0
American Wigeon	0	0	0	0
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	7,030	7,961	10,800	580
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	1	0	0	0

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 01/27/2026
Northern Pintail	6	0	15	0
Green-winged Teal	105	0	0	0
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	30	5	0	0
Scaup	4	0	0	0
Bufflehead	0	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	151	602	0	0
Hooded Merganser	5	2	0	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	5	5	0	0

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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 01/21/2026	Total number of birds observed week of 01/27/2026
Geese	25,682	29,374	11,170	5,140
Dabblers	7,147	7,961	10,820	580
Divers	190	609	0	0
All Ducks	7,337	8,570	10,820	580
Shorebirds	0	0	0	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 01/06/2026	Total number of birds observed 01/13/2026	Total number of birds observed 01/21/2026	Total number of birds observed 01/27/2026
Adult	173	39	54	9
Immature	311	122	69	17
All Eagles	484	161	123	26