

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

Date: 2026-02-03

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	01/13/2026 data	01/21/2026 data	01/27/2026 data	02/03/2026 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	5%	99%	99%	99%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 02/03/2026
Greater White-fronted Goose	1,502	1,335	240	270
Snow Goose	27,040	9,770	4,900	6,300
Ross's Goose	270	Present	Present	Present
Canada Goose	562	65	0	15
Trumpeter Swan	4,039	1,530	194	31
Tundra Swan	5	0	1	0
Wood Duck	0	0	0	0
Gadwall	0	5	0	0
American Wigeon	0	0	0	0
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	7,961	10,800	580	240
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	0	0	0	0

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 02/03/2026
Northern Pintail	0	15	0	0
Green-winged Teal	0	0	0	0
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	5	0	0	0
Scaup	0	0	0	0
Bufflehead	0	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	602	0	0	0
Hooded Merganser	2	0	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	0	0	0

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 02/03/2026
Geese	29,374	11,170	5,140	6,585
Dabblers	7,961	10,820	580	240
Divers	609	0	0	0
All Ducks	8,570	10,820	580	240
Shorebirds	0	0	0	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 01/13/2026	Total number of birds observed 01/21/2026	Total number of birds observed 01/27/2026	Total number of birds observed 02/03/2026
Adult	39	54	9	11
Immature	122	69	17	6
All Eagles	161	123	26	17