

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

Date: 2026-02-17

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	01/27/2026 data	02/03/2026 data	02/10/2026 data	02/17/2026 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,500
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	99%	99%	70%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 01/27/2026	Number of Birds observed week of 02/03/2026	Number of Birds observed week of 02/10/2026	Number of Birds observed week of 02/17/2026
Greater White-fronted Goose	240	270	1,170	4,020
Snow Goose	4,900	6,300	51,500	192,116
Ross's Goose	Present	Present	Present	Present
Canada Goose	0	15	447	213
Trumpeter Swan	194	31	1,018	1,000
Tundra Swan	1	0	2	5
Wood Duck	0	0	0	2
Gadwall	0	0	45	840
American Wigeon	0	0	10	40
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	580	240	3,493	14,354
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	0	0	15	75

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 01/27/2026	Number of Birds observed week of 02/03/2026	Number of Birds observed week of 02/10/2026	Number of Birds observed week of 02/17/2026
Northern Pintail	0	0	242	220
Green-winged Teal	0	0	280	75
Canvasback	0	0	0	5
Redhead	0	0	10	30
Ring-necked Duck	0	0	362	6,355
Scaup	0	0	130	360
Bufflehead	0	0	0	41
Common Goldeneye	0	0	234	369
Hooded Merganser	0	0	31	58
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	0	0	0

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 01/27/2026	Total number of birds observed week of 02/03/2026	Total number of birds observed week of 02/10/2026	Total number of birds observed week of 02/17/2026
Geese	5,140	6,585	53,117	196,349
Dabblers	580	240	4,085	15,606
Divers	0	0	767	7,218
All Ducks	580	240	4,852	22,824
Shorebirds	0	0	0	4

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 01/27/2026	Total number of birds observed 02/03/2026	Total number of birds observed 02/10/2026	Total number of birds observed 02/17/2026
Adult	9	11	19	7
Immature	17	6	13	8
All Eagles	26	17	32	15