

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

Date: 2026-02-24

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	02/03/2026 data	02/10/2026 data	02/17/2026 data	02/24/2026 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,400	3,400	3,500	3,500
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	99%	70%	0%	80%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 02/24/2026
Greater White-fronted Goose	270	1,170	4,020	14,675
Snow Goose	6,300	51,500	192,116	755,550
Ross's Goose	Present	Present	Present	Present
Canada Goose	15	447	213	427
Trumpeter Swan	31	1,018	1,000	1,081
Tundra Swan	0	2	5	4
Wood Duck	0	0	2	20
Gadwall	0	45	840	1,080
American Wigeon	0	10	40	35
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	240	3,493	14,354	17,665
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	0	15	75	105

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 02/24/2026
Northern Pintail	0	242	220	7,355
Green-winged Teal	0	280	75	395
Canvasback	0	0	5	3
Redhead	0	10	30	15
Ring-necked Duck	0	362	6,355	2,935
Scaup	0	130	360	200
Bufflehead	0	0	41	80
Common Goldeneye	0	234	369	291
Hooded Merganser	0	31	58	165
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	165

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 02/24/2026
Geese	6,585	53,117	196,349	770,652
Dabblers	240	4,085	15,606	26,655
Divers	0	767	7,218	3,689
All Ducks	240	4,852	22,824	30,334
Shorebirds	0	0	4	12

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 02/03/2026	Total number of birds observed 02/10/2026	Total number of birds observed 02/17/2026	Total number of birds observed 02/24/2026
Adult	11	19	7	65
Immature	6	13	8	78
All Eagles	17	32	15	143