

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

Date: 2026-03-10

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	02/17/2026 data	02/24/2026 data	03/03/2026 data	03/10/2026 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,500	3,500	3,575	3,575
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	80%	0%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 02/17/2026	Number of Birds observed week of 02/24/2026	Number of Birds observed week of 03/03/2026	Number of Birds observed week of 03/10/2026
Greater White-fronted Goose	4,020	14,675	3,231	580
Snow Goose	192,116	755,550	730,511	598,510
Ross's Goose	Present	Present	Present	Present
Canada Goose	213	427	89	110
Trumpeter Swan	1,000	1,081	1,468	358
Tundra Swan	5	4	0	0
Wood Duck	2	20	95	135
Gadwall	840	1,080	9,100	1,152
American Wigeon	40	35	95	35
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	14,354	17,665	18,826	1,973
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	12	37
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	75	105	1,110	3,043

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 02/17/2026	Number of Birds observed week of 02/24/2026	Number of Birds observed week of 03/03/2026	Number of Birds observed week of 03/10/2026
Northern Pintail	220	7,355	9,121	560
Green-winged Teal	75	395	525	560
Canvasback	5	3	9	1
Redhead	30	15	15	5
Ring-necked Duck	6,355	2,935	10,070	8,787
Scaup	360	200	100	200
Bufflehead	41	80	136	77
Common Goldeneye	369	291	238	30
Hooded Merganser	58	165	171	138
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	21	10
Pied-billed Grebe	0	0	3	12
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	0	165	304	937

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 02/17/2026	Total number of birds observed week of 02/24/2026	Total number of birds observed week of 03/03/2026	Total number of birds observed week of 03/10/2026
Geese	196,349	770,652	733,831	599,200
Dabblers	15,606	26,655	38,884	7,495
Divers	7,218	3,689	10,760	9,248
All Ducks	22,824	30,334	49,644	16,743
Shorebirds	4	12	17	61

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 02/17/2026	Total number of birds observed 02/24/2026	Total number of birds observed 03/03/2026	Total number of birds observed 03/10/2026
Adult	7	65	7	9
Immature	8	78	21	22
All Eagles	15	143	28	31