

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

Date: 2026-03-17

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	02/24/2026 data	03/03/2026 data	03/10/2026 data	03/17/2026 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,500	3,575	3,575	3,575
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	80%	0%	0%	98%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 03/17/2026
Greater White-fronted Goose	14,675	3,231	580	10,400
Snow Goose	755,550	730,511	598,510	154,711
Ross's Goose	Present	Present	Present	Present
Canada Goose	427	89	110	120
Trumpeter Swan	1,081	1,468	358	161
Tundra Swan	4	0	0	0
Wood Duck	20	95	135	182
Gadwall	1,080	9,100	1,152	4,341
American Wigeon	35	95	35	66
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	17,665	18,826	1,973	19,130
Blue-winged Teal	0	12	37	299
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	1
Northern Shoveler	105	1,110	3,043	10,732

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 03/17/2026
Northern Pintail	7,355	9,121	560	19,045
Green-winged Teal	395	525	560	5,407
Canvasback	3	9	1	0
Redhead	15	15	5	0
Ring-necked Duck	2,935	10,070	8,787	9,731
Scaup	200	100	200	255
Bufflehead	80	136	77	126
Common Goldeneye	291	238	30	22
Hooded Merganser	165	171	138	180
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	21	10	59
Pied-billed Grebe	0	3	12	57
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	165	304	937	1,270

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 03/17/2026
Geese	770,652	733,831	599,200	165,231
Dabblers	26,655	38,884	7,495	59,203
Divers	3,689	10,760	9,248	10,373
All Ducks	30,334	49,644	16,743	69,576
Shorebirds	12	17	61	38

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 02/24/2026	Total number of birds observed 03/03/2026	Total number of birds observed 03/10/2026	Total number of birds observed 03/17/2026
Adult	65	7	9	21
Immature	78	21	22	59
All Eagles	143	28	31	80