

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

Date: 2026-03-24

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

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 03/24/2026
Greater White-fronted Goose	3,231	580	10,400	30
Snow Goose	730,511	598,510	154,711	1,056
Ross's Goose	Present	Present	Present	7
Canada Goose	89	110	120	47
Trumpeter Swan	1,468	358	161	46
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	95	135	182	298
Gadwall	9,100	1,152	4,341	2,235
American Wigeon	95	35	66	40
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	18,826	1,973	19,130	2,229
Blue-winged Teal	12	37	299	1,264
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	1	1
Northern Shoveler	1,110	3,043	10,732	13,772

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 03/24/2026
Northern Pintail	9,121	560	19,045	125
Green-winged Teal	525	560	5,407	1,235
Canvasback	9	1	0	0
Redhead	15	5	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	10,070	8,787	9,731	4,271
Scaup	100	200	255	126
Bufflehead	136	77	126	123
Common Goldeneye	238	30	22	5
Hooded Merganser	171	138	180	148
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	21	10	59	0
Pied-billed Grebe	3	12	57	26
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	304	937	1,270	4,536

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 03/24/2026
Geese	733,831	599,200	165,231	1,140
Dabblers	38,884	7,495	59,203	21,199
Divers	10,760	9,248	10,373	4,673
All Ducks	49,644	16,743	69,576	25,872
Shorebirds	17	61	38	32

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 03/03/2026	Total number of birds observed 03/10/2026	Total number of birds observed 03/17/2026	Total number of birds observed 03/24/2026
Adult	7	9	21	7
Immature	21	22	59	30
All Eagles	28	31	80	37