

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

Date: 2026-04-07

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	03/10/2026 data	03/17/2026 data	03/24/2026 data	04/07/2026 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%	98%	0%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 04/07/2026
Greater White-fronted Goose	580	10,400	30	60
Snow Goose	598,510	154,711	1,056	73
Ross's Goose	Present	Present	7	0
Canada Goose	110	120	47	41
Trumpeter Swan	358	161	46	19
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	135	182	298	3
Gadwall	1,152	4,341	2,235	3,020
American Wigeon	35	66	40	4
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	1,973	19,130	2,229	102
Blue-winged Teal	37	299	1,264	2,720
Cinnamon Teal	0	1	1	0
Northern Shoveler	3,043	10,732	13,772	5,372

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 04/07/2026
Northern Pintail	560	19,045	125	15
Green-winged Teal	560	5,407	1,235	325
Canvasback	1	0	0	1
Redhead	5	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	8,787	9,731	4,271	610
Scaup	200	255	126	31
Bufflehead	77	126	123	0
Common Goldeneye	30	22	5	2
Hooded Merganser	138	180	148	89
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	10	59	0	105
Pied-billed Grebe	12	57	26	83
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	1
American Coot	937	1,270	4,536	4,844

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 04/07/2026
Geese	599,200	165,231	1,140	174
Dabblers	7,495	59,203	21,199	8,844
Divers	9,248	10,373	4,673	838
All Ducks	16,743	69,576	25,872	9,682
Shorebirds	61	38	32	52

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 03/10/2026	Total number of birds observed 03/17/2026	Total number of birds observed 03/24/2026	Total number of birds observed 04/07/2026
Adult	9	21	7	6
Immature	22	59	30	25
All Eagles	31	80	37	31