

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

Date: 2026-04-14

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	03/17/2026 data	03/24/2026 data	04/07/2026 data	04/14/2026 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,575	3,575	3,575	3,575
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	98%	0%	0%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 04/14/2026
Greater White-fronted Goose	10,400	30	60	140
Snow Goose	154,711	1,056	73	58
Ross's Goose	Present	7	0	3
Canada Goose	120	47	41	40
Trumpeter Swan	161	46	19	5
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	182	298	3	16
Gadwall	4,341	2,235	3,020	590
American Wigeon	66	40	4	0
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	19,130	2,229	102	12
Blue-winged Teal	299	1,264	2,720	2,082
Cinnamon Teal	1	1	0	1
Northern Shoveler	10,732	13,772	5,372	1,200

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 04/14/2026
Northern Pintail	19,045	125	15	0
Green-winged Teal	5,407	1,235	325	70
Canvasback	0	0	1	0
Redhead	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	9,731	4,271	610	362
Scaup	255	126	31	4
Bufflehead	126	123	0	0
Common Goldeneye	22	5	2	0
Hooded Merganser	180	148	89	62
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	59	0	105	20
Pied-billed Grebe	57	26	83	20
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	1	0
American Coot	1,270	4,536	4,844	2,728

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 04/14/2026
Geese	165,231	1,140	174	241
Dabblers	59,203	21,199	8,844	3,971
Divers	10,373	4,673	838	448
All Ducks	69,576	25,872	9,682	4,419
Shorebirds	38	32	52	58

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 03/17/2026	Total number of birds observed 03/24/2026	Total number of birds observed 04/07/2026	Total number of birds observed 04/14/2026
Adult	21	7	6	5
Immature	59	30	25	6
All Eagles	80	37	31	11