

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

Date: 2026-04-21

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	03/24/2026 data	04/07/2026 data	04/14/2026 data	04/21/2026 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,575	3,575	3,575	3,500
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	0%	0%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 04/21/2026
Greater White-fronted Goose	30	60	140	0
Snow Goose	1,056	73	58	29
Ross's Goose	7	0	3	1
Canada Goose	47	41	40	59
Trumpeter Swan	46	19	5	3
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	298	3	16	12
Gadwall	2,235	3,020	590	1,167
American Wigeon	40	4	0	0
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	2,229	102	12	71
Blue-winged Teal	1,264	2,720	2,082	2,876
Cinnamon Teal	1	0	1	3
Northern Shoveler	13,772	5,372	1,200	469

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 04/21/2026
Northern Pintail	125	15	0	2
Green-winged Teal	1,235	325	70	85
Canvasback	0	1	0	0
Redhead	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	4,271	610	362	76
Scaup	126	31	4	50
Bufflehead	123	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	5	2	0	0
Hooded Merganser	148	89	62	13
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	105	20	0
Pied-billed Grebe	26	83	20	32
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	1	0	0
American Coot	4,536	4,844	2,728	1,243

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 04/21/2026
Geese	1,140	174	241	89
Dabblers	21,199	8,844	3,971	4,685
Divers	4,673	838	448	139
All Ducks	25,872	9,682	4,419	4,824
Shorebirds	32	52	58	1,473

Eagles Summary:

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