

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

Date: 2026-10-06

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	09/15/2026 data	09/22/2026 data	09/29/2026 data	10/06/2026 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	2,457	2,587	2,640	2,845
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	0%	0%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 09/15/2026	Number of Birds observed week of 09/22/2026	Number of Birds observed week of 09/29/2026	Number of Birds observed week of 10/06/2026
Greater White-fronted Goose	0	0	0	0
Snow Goose	0	0	0	0
Ross's Goose	0	0	0	0
Canada Goose	2	23	92	119
Trumpeter Swan	0	0	0	0
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	30	1	53	45
Gadwall	0	0	0	0
American Wigeon	0	0	0	10
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	0	0	10	0
Blue-winged Teal	450	660	5,035	3,932
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	0	0	30	75

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 09/15/2026	Number of Birds observed week of 09/22/2026	Number of Birds observed week of 09/29/2026	Number of Birds observed week of 10/06/2026
Northern Pintail	0	0	1,655	1,760
Green-winged Teal	0	0	0	30
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	0	0	0	5
Ring-necked Duck	0	0	0	15
Scaup	0	0	0	0
Bufflehead	0	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0
Hooded Merganser	1	0	0	0
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	8	10	27	87
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	0	80	125	1,520

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 09/15/2026	Total number of birds observed week of 09/22/2026	Total number of birds observed week of 09/29/2026	Total number of birds observed week of 10/06/2026
Geese	2	23	92	119
Dabblers	480	661	6,783	5,852
Divers	1	0	0	20
All Ducks	481	661	6,783	5,872
Shorebirds	0	0	0	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 09/15/2026	Total number of birds observed 09/22/2026	Total number of birds observed 09/29/2026	Total number of birds observed 10/06/2026
Adult	Present	Present	Present	Present
Immature	Present	Present	Present	Present
All Eagles	Present	Present	Present	Present