

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

Date: 2026-10-20

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	09/29/2026 data	10/06/2026 data	10/13/2026 data	10/20/2026 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	2,640	2,845	3,260	3,340
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	0%	0%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 09/29/2026	Number of Birds observed week of 10/06/2026	Number of Birds observed week of 10/13/2026	Number of Birds observed week of 10/20/2026
Greater White-fronted Goose	0	0	0	2,290
Snow Goose	0	0	0	20
Ross's Goose	0	0	0	0
Canada Goose	92	119	116	376
Trumpeter Swan	0	0	0	0
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	53	45	260	413
Gadwall	0	0	830	0
American Wigeon	0	10	5	0
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	10	0	80	155
Blue-winged Teal	5,035	3,932	8,885	325
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	30	75	705	633

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 09/29/2026	Number of Birds observed week of 10/06/2026	Number of Birds observed week of 10/13/2026	Number of Birds observed week of 10/20/2026
Northern Pintail	1,655	1,760	13,305	9,050
Green-winged Teal	0	30	1,010	4,350
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	0	5	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	0	15	15	310
Scaup	0	0	5	0
Bufflehead	0	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0
Hooded Merganser	0	0	0	1
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	27	87	68	85
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	125	1,520	6,765	4,758

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 09/29/2026	Total number of birds observed week of 10/06/2026	Total number of birds observed week of 10/13/2026	Total number of birds observed week of 10/20/2026
Geese	92	119	116	2,686
Dabblers	6,783	5,852	25,080	14,926
Divers	0	20	20	311
All Ducks	6,783	5,872	25,100	15,237
Shorebirds	0	0	0	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 09/29/2026	Total number of birds observed 10/06/2026	Total number of birds observed 10/13/2026	Total number of birds observed 10/20/2026
Adult	Present	Present	Present	Present
Immature	Present	Present	Present	Present
All Eagles	Present	Present	Present	Present