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

Date: 2026-10-27

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	10/06/2026 data	10/13/2026 data	10/20/2026 data	10/27/2026 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	2,845	3,260	3,340	3,380
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	0%	0%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 10/27/2026
Greater White-fronted Goose	0	0	2,290	11,600
Snow Goose	0	0	20	35
Ross's Goose	0	0	0	0
Canada Goose	119	116	376	265
Trumpeter Swan	0	0	0	0
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	45	260	413	855
Gadwall	0	830	0	7,565
American Wigeon	10	5	0	25
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	0	80	155	170
Blue-winged Teal	3,932	8,885	325	125
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	75	705	633	1,145

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 10/27/2026
Northern Pintail	1,760	13,305	9,050	16,020
Green-winged Teal	30	1,010	4,350	13,730
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	5	0	0	5
Ring-necked Duck	15	15	310	3,995
Scaup	0	5	0	140
Bufflehead	0	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0
Hooded Merganser	0	0	1	0
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	87	68	85	188
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	1,520	6,765	4,758	18,205

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 10/27/2026
Geese	119	116	2,686	11,900
Dabblers	5,852	25,080	14,926	39,635
Divers	20	20	311	4,140
All Ducks	5,872	25,100	15,237	43,775
Shorebirds	0	0	0	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 10/06/2026	Total number of birds observed 10/13/2026	Total number of birds observed 10/20/2026	Total number of birds observed 10/27/2026
Adult	Present	Present	Present	Present
Immature	Present	Present	Present	Present
All Eagles	Present	Present	Present	Present