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

Date: 2026-11-03

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	10/13/2026 data	10/20/2026 data	10/27/2026 data	11/03/2026 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,260	3,340	3,380	3,550
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	0%	0%	0%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 11/03/2026
Greater White-fronted Goose	0	2,290	11,600	34,600
Snow Goose	0	20	35	65
Ross's Goose	0	0	0	0
Canada Goose	116	376	265	118
Trumpeter Swan	0	0	0	1
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	260	413	855	1,110
Gadwall	830	0	7,565	24,400
American Wigeon	5	0	25	105
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	80	155	170	710
Blue-winged Teal	8,885	325	125	70
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	705	633	1,145	1,905

Species	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	Number of Birds observed week of 11/03/2026
Northern Pintail	13,305	9,050	16,020	20,830
Green-winged Teal	1,010	4,350	13,730	22,305
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	0	0	5	0
Ring-necked Duck	15	310	3,995	2,910
Scaup	5	0	140	0
Bufflehead	0	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0
Hooded Merganser	0	1	0	2
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	68	85	188	87
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	6,765	4,758	18,205	45,005

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	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	Total number of birds observed week of 11/03/2026
Geese	116	2,686	11,900	34,783
Dabblers	25,080	14,926	39,635	71,425
Divers	20	311	4,140	2,912
All Ducks	25,100	15,237	43,775	74,337
Shorebirds	0	0	0	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 10/13/2026	Total number of birds observed 10/20/2026	Total number of birds observed 10/27/2026	Total number of birds observed 11/03/2026
Adult	Present	Present	Present	2
Immature	Present	Present	Present	7
All Eagles	Present	Present	Present	9