

April 11, 2023

Refuge Conditions and Migration Report

Sand Lake Refuge has experienced significant winter storms the last month and we estimate there is currently 1 to 1.5 feet of snow in most places; however, the snow is melting quickly. Additionally, the lake remains mostly frozen with just a sliver of open water at the Sand Lake Dam. Peak migration is not occurring on the Refuge, but there are small (approximately 30) flocks of geese flying over. We have also seen an increase in raptors.

There are reports of large flocks of waterfowl in the southeast portion of the Wetland Management District (WMD), specifically eastern Spink County. We suspect birds will move on to the Refuge as soon as a quarter of Sand Lake is open, which could be one to two weeks from today.

The road to the visitor center is open; however, the tour loop is closed and may remain closed for an extended period if we experience flooding. We anticipate very wet and muddy conditions on the Refuge this spring so please plan accordingly if you are planning a visit this spring.

The Visitor Center is open from 8 AM to 4:30 PM Central Monday to Friday with the exception of federal holidays.



Photo taken 4/11/2023 from headquarters looking south.



Photo taken 4/11/2023 from headquarters looking northeast.