

### **Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR – 9/26/2012**

Canada Geese – 1100

Snow Geese – 0

Ducks – 13,000

Swans – 4

Refuge water levels in both Mud Lake and Sand Lake are low and shallow, with very little flow in the James River. The majority of ducks currently using the refuge are blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, northern shovelers, and gadwalls.

The first tundra swans of the season were seen today just north of state highway 10.

Although the larger wetlands in the surrounding area are still holding water, many of the wetlands that have held water the past seasons are dry.

The soybean harvest is over 50% completed, and the corn harvest is just getting started in the area.

### **Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR – 10/3/2012**

Canada Geese – 1000

Snow Geese – 0

Ducks – 19,000

Swans – 7

Refuge water levels in both Mud Lake and Sand Lake are low and shallow with very little flow in the James River. The majority of ducks currently using the refuge are green-winged teal, northern shovelers, pintails, and mallards. There were increases in mallards, pintails, and shovelers and a drop in blue-winged teal numbers since last week.

The soybean harvest in the area is nearly completed, and the corn harvest is getting a good start.

### **Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR – 10/11/12**

Canada Geese – 1700

Snow Geese – 0

Ducks – 36,000

Swans – 100

The number and diversity of ducks on the refuge has really increased since last week. The majority of ducks currently on the refuge are mallards, gadwalls, pintails, wigeons, and ruddy ducks. The first lesser scaup, buffleheads, and canvasbacks just showed up in the last few days.

No snow geese have been seen on Sand Lake, but there are reports of some small flocks in the area.

The soybean harvest in the area is mostly completed, and the corn harvest is close to 50% done.

### **Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR – 10/17/2012**

Canada Geese – 2000

Snow Geese – 0

Ducks – 36,000

Swans – 100

The number of ducks on the refuge remains similar to last week. The majority of ducks on the refuge are mallards, green-winged teal, gadwalls, pintails, and ruddy ducks.

Small flocks of 50 to 150 snow geese have been seen in the Sand Lake area, but no snow geese have been observed on the refuge.

There were 250 sandhill cranes on Sand Lake today, about a mile south of highway 10.

The soybean harvest in the area is completed, and the corn harvest is nearly done.

### **Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR – 10/23/2012**

Canada Geese – 5200

Snow Geese – 7000

Ducks – 58,000

Swans – 420

Duck numbers increased significantly since last week, with increases in mallards, gadwalls, pintails, ruddy ducks, and canvasbacks.

The snow geese on the refuge were equally divided between Mud Lake and Sand Lake.

Most of the swans are using Mud Lake.

Quite a few flocks of white-fronted geese are being seen in the area.

There are still a few fields of corn standing, but most of the area harvest is completed.

### **Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR – 10/31/2012**

Canada Geese – 6500

Snow Geese – 32,000

Ducks – 200,000

Swans – 730

Duck numbers continued to increase on the refuge, with many moving into the area last Thursday and Friday. The majority of ducks currently on the refuge are mallards, pintails, and green-winged teal.

The snow geese are using both Mud Lake and Sand Lake. There are also several thousand white-fronted geese using Sand Lake.

The majority of swans are in Mud Lake.

The harvest is mostly completed in the area.

### **Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR – 11/7/2012**

Canada Geese – 7600

Snow Geese – 62,000

Ducks – 175,000

Swans – 1200

The majority of ducks currently on the refuge are mallards and green-winged teal. More lesser scaup have moved into the refuge since last week.

The snow geese are using both Mud Lake and Sand Lake. There were also over four-thousand white-fronted geese on the refuge today.

The majority of the swans are in Mud Lake, but there are over 350 in Sand Lake.

Predicted cold weather beginning on Sunday could freeze up much of the water on the refuge, so numbers of waterfowl may change quickly in the coming days.

### **Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR – 11/14/2012**

Canada Geese – 10,300

Snow Geese – 52,000

Ducks – 38,000

Swans – 30

The migration was in high gear over the weekend. Snow goose numbers increased in the refuge area on Friday and Saturday, and then began to drop. Large, high-flying flocks of snow geese were seen migrating through the refuge area on Sunday and Monday.

Temperatures dropped to the low-teens for several nights in a row during the past weekend and the Sand Lake area received about ½ inch of snow on Saturday night. Both Mud Lake and Sand Lake froze over, although there are some small, open-water areas remaining on both pools.

Several thousand white-fronted geese remain mixed in with some of the Canada goose flocks.

Moderating temperatures predicted for this week and into next week should allow waterfowl to remain in the area.

### **Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR – 11/20/2012**

Canada Geese – 7800

Snow Geese – 4000

Ducks – 30,000

Swans – 55

Total numbers of geese and ducks on Sand Lake refuge have slowly declined during the past week. Very few snow geese have been on the refuge the last few days, but flocks are still being seen in the area. Most of the lakes are still frozen, although the warmer weather has allowed the open water areas to expand during the week.

Temperatures are supposed to be above normal through Thursday, and then drop to more normal temperatures.

### **Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR – 11/28/2012**

Canada Geese – 3800

Snow Geese – 0

Ducks – 13,000

Swans – 0

The total number of geese and ducks continued to decline on Sand Lake refuge during the week. A few small flocks of snow geese are still being seen in the area but none are currently using Sand Lake. There are also some ducks still remaining on some larger wetlands in the area.

The lakes on the refuge are mostly frozen over, with one small open-water area in Mud Lake and one in Sand Lake, and some open water in the river channel between Mud Lake dike and State Highway 10.