

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR – 10/22/2013

Canada Geese – 4500

Snow Geese – 600

Ducks – 52,000

Swans – 725

This first report of the season is about 3 weeks late, due to the government shutdown. Total ducks numbers have dropped considerably on the refuge since the beginning of the season. Mallards and pintails make up the majority of ducks currently on the refuge, with lesser numbers of gadwall and green-winged teal. There are very few diving ducks currently using the refuge, expect for a few redheads. Several small flocks of hooded mergansers were observed today.

The first snow geese of the season were seen last Friday.

Most of the swans located in Sand Lake one to two miles south of Highway 10, and near the south end of the refuge.

Flocks of white-fronted geese are being seen on the refuge and in the northern Brown County area.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR – 10/30/2013

Canada Geese – 6000

Snow Geese – 32,000

Ducks – 85,000

Swans – 850

More waterfowl moved into the area over the past weekend. Mallards made up most of the increase in duck numbers. The largest concentration of ducks using the refuge is located near the south end of Sand Lake.

The snow geese are located on the main body of Sand Lake and near the south end of Sand Lake.

Most of the swans are using Sand Lake one to two miles south of Highway 10, and near the south end of the refuge.

The soybean harvest is mostly completed and the corn harvest is about 50% completed in the area.

The refuge received about 2 inches of snow Monday night, but most of that should melt soon with warming temperatures predicted through the weekend.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR – 11/6/2013

Canada Geese – 6500

Snow Geese – 126,000

Ducks – 180,000

Swans – 650

Waterfowl numbers continue to build at Sand Lake, especially the last few days. Mallards make up most of the increase in duck numbers, along with a few more divers, especially lesser scaup, hooded mergansers, and ruddy ducks. The largest concentration of ducks is located in Sand Lake, from highway 10 to the south end.

The main concentration of snow geese is south of highway 10, and near the south end of the refuge.

The soybean harvest is pretty much completed and the corn harvest is over 75% completed in the area.

High temperatures are predicted to remain in the 40's through the weekend and then drop down into the 30's next week.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR – 11/13/2013

Canada Geese – 5000

Snow Geese – 240,000

Ducks – 110,000

Swans – 50

Waterfowl activity peaked at the refuge this past weekend, but good numbers of snow geese and ducks still remain. The refuge lakes froze over on Monday night, and remain mostly frozen over as of today. The ducks remaining are mostly mallards and are concentrated in several small open-water areas throughout Sand Lake.

The main concentrations of snow geese are south of Highway 10, on the main body of Sand Lake, just north of Weismantel Grade, and near the south end of the refuge.

The remaining swans are on Sand Lake one to two miles south of Highway 10 and near the south end.

The harvest in the refuge area is close to 90% complete.

High temperatures are predicted to remain in the 40's through Saturday, and then drop down to the 20's next week.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR – 11/20/2013

Canada Geese – 5000

Snow Geese – 130,000

Ducks – 125,000

Swans – 15

The refuge lakes have lost most of the ice the past couple of days. Duck numbers have increased from last week, with most of the mallards using the south half of the refuge.

The main concentrations of snow geese are south of highway 10 and near the south end of the refuge. There were some smaller flocks using Mud Lake early in the week.

The remaining swans are on Sand Lake near Highway 10.

Temperatures are predicted to cool down starting tomorrow, with a high near 22 and only reaching a high of 15 by Saturday.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR 11/25/2013

Canada Geese – 3500

Snow Geese – 400

Ducks – 18,000

Swans – 0

The refuge lakes froze over last Thursday (Nov. 21), except for some small open water areas near the water control structures. Good numbers of snow geese remained in the refuge area through Saturday, but numbers dropped considerably since.

High temperatures are predicted to remain below freezing through the weekend.