

Author: William Schultze at 6DE-RWSDL
Date: 10/06/1999 1:06 PM
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/6/99

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/6/99

Canada Geese - 3200

Snow Geese - <50

Ducks - 40,000

Mostly mallards and gadwalls; an increase in pintails; decrease in blue-winged teal.

Swans - 125

North Dakota Refuges/WMD

Des Lacs NWR - 5000 snow geese

Upper Souris NWR - 5000 snow geese

J. Clark Salyer NWR - <1000 snow geese; over 3/4 of Bottineau County has no crop planted this year due to the wet spring/early summer.

Devil's Lake WMD - Small numbers of snow geese just starting to move into the area.

Author: William Schultze at 6DE-RWSDL
Date: 10/13/1999 4:28 PM
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/13/99

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/13/99

Canada Geese - 3700

Snow Geese - 100

Ducks - 50,000

Swans - 125

No real drastic changes again this week. We have picked up a few more Canada geese, with a few snow geese mixed in with some of the flocks.

Diving duck numbers have increased, esp. canvasbacks and lesser scaup. Gadwalls are still plentiful.

North Dakota Refuges/WMD

Des Lacs NWR - 7000 snow geese

Upper Souris NWR - 5000 snow geese

J. Clark Salyer NWR - small flocks of snow geese around the refuge

Devil's Lake WMD - a few snow geese showing up in the northern counties

Author: William Schultze at 6DE-RWSDL
Date: 10/20/1999 4:30 PM
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/20/99

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/20/99

Canada Geese - 4000

Snow Geese - 250

Ducks - 70,000

Swans - 300

Canada goose numbers remained relatively constant. Some small Canadas are showing up. There are a few small flocks of snow geese. Duck numbers rose, with increases mainly in mallards, green-winged teal, and canvasbacks. Mallards are just beginning to feed in some of the harvested fields around the refuge.

North Dakota Refuges/WMD

Des Lacs NWR - 30,000 snow geese

Upper Souris NWR - 15,000 snow geese

J. Clark Salyer NWR - 40,000 snow geese

Devil's Lake WMD - 50,000 - 75,000 snow geese

Author: William Schultze at 6DE-RWSDL
Date: 10/27/1999 3:11 PM
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/27/99

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/27/99

Canada Geese - 4500

Snow Geese - 8000

Ducks - 105,000

Swans - 750

Snow geese are starting to move in. Most are along the southeast side of Sand Lake. Also smaller flocks in Mud Lake and near the south end of the refuge. Duck numbers jumped again, with increases mainly in mallards, lesser scaup, and redheads. Some larger flocks of mallards are feeding in some of the harvested fields around the refuge. The majority of tundra swans are in Sand Lake.

Putney Slough - 6000 snow geese

North Dakota Refuges/WMD

Des Lacs NWR - 30,000 snow geese

Upper Souris NWR - 40,000 snow geese

J. Clark Salyer NWR - 40,000 snow geese

Devil's Lake WMD - More snow geese moving into the area

Author: William Schultze at 6DE-RWSDL
Date: 11/03/1999 2:55 PM
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/3/99

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/3/99

Canada Geese - 5500

Snow Geese - 47,000

Ducks - 155,000

Swans - 1100

Snow geese began building last Friday, and continued through the weekend. The largest flock is near the south end of the refuge, with smaller flocks near the east side of Sand Lake and in Mud Lake. More small Canada geese have moved into the refuge in recent days. Duck numbers also jumped near the end of last week, with increases mainly in mallards. Gadwall, canvasback, wigeon and shoveler numbers have dropped since last week. Tundra swans are spread out throughout the entire refuge.

Putney Slough - 10,000 snow geese

North Dakota Refuges/WMD

Des Lacs NWR - 100,000 snow geese

Upper Souris NWR - 100,000 snow geese

J. Clark Salyer NWR - 100,000 snow geese

Devil's Lake WMD - 75,000 snow geese

Although snow goose numbers have increased at the North Dakota refuges, duck numbers have dropped considerably.

Author: William Schultze at 6DE-RWSDL
Date: 11/09/1999 8:15 AM
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/8/99

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/8/99 (Aerial Count)

Canada Geese - 6500

Snow Geese - 64,000

Ducks - 200,000

Swans - 1360

Snow geese numbers are continuing to build on the refuge and in northeast Brown County and western Marshall County area. The largest flock is near the south end of the refuge, with smaller flocks on the main part Sand Lake and in Mud Lake. The Canada geese are spread out over the entire refuge. Duck numbers continue to build, with increases mainly in mallards. The tundra swans are spread throughout Sand Lake and southern Mud Lake.

Putney Slough - 5,000 snow geese

Dakota Lake (North Dakota) - 7200 snow geese

Marshes South of Amherst (Marshall County) - 16,200 snow geese

Crow Creek, along Highway 37 - 20,000 snow geese

Author: William Schultze at 6DE-RWSDL
Date: 11/17/1999 11:27 AM
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/16/99

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/16/99 (Aerial Count)

Canada Geese - 5000
Snow Geese - 123,000
Ducks - 120,000
Swans - 1300

Snow goose numbers in the area are continuing to build. There are now flocks near the south end, several in the main part of Sand Lake, and in Mud Lake. Canada goose numbers have dropped some, but are still well distributed throughout the refuge. Duck numbers have dropped from last week, although there are still good numbers on the refuge. Tundra swans continue to use much of Sand Lake and the southern part of Mud Lake.

Other areas surveyed

Dakota Lake (North Dakota) - 7,500 snow geese
Marshes south of Amherst (Marshall County) - 58,000 snow geese
Putney Slough - 1,000 snow geese
Crow Creek, along Highway 37 - 12,000
James River, south of Highway 12 - 23,000

North Dakota Refuges/WMD

Des Lacs NWR - 125,000 snow geese
Upper Souris NWR - 50,000 snow geese
J. Clark Salyer NWR - 80,000 - 90,000 snow geese
Devil's Lake WMD - 150,000 snow geese

Refuges south of Sand Lake NWR

DeSoto NWR - 1,500 snow geese

Author: William Schultze at 6DE-RWSDL
Date: 11/23/1999 1:17 PM
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/23/99

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/23/99

Canada Geese - 6000

Snow Geese - 140,000

Ducks - 210,000

Swans - 2000

Snow goose numbers in the area built some more during the past week. The flocks are near the south end, in the main part of Sand Lake, and in Mud Lake. Canada goose numbers rose again, and are well distributed throughout the refuge. Duck numbers rose from last week, probably as the result of smaller wetlands beginning to freeze over and as more migrants moved in. Tundra swan numbers also rose, with most of them using northern Sand Lake and the southern part of Mud Lake.

No other areas were surveyed this week.

North Dakota Refuges/WMD

Des Lacs NWR - No snow geese left-departed 11/21

Upper Souris NWR - Very few snow geese left

J. Clark Salyer NWR - Many snow geese have left

Devil's Lake WMD - Only a few snow geese left

Refuges south of Sand Lake NWR

DeSoto NWR - 50,000 snow geese

Squaw Creek NWR - At least 50,000 snow geese

Author: William Schultze at 6DE-RWSDL
Date: 12/01/1999 2:59 PM
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/30/99

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/30/99

Canada Geese - 5000

Snow Geese - 55,000

Ducks - 110,000

Swans - 2400

Snow goose numbers declined as the lakes froze up during the past week. The mild weather and wind the last 2 days have reopened much of the lakes. Duck numbers have dropped, but there are good numbers of mallards feeding in the harvested fields around the refuge. Tundra swan numbers rose again, with most of them located in northern Sand Lake and the southern part of Mud Lake.

No other areas were surveyed this week.

North Dakota Refuges/WMD

Most of the snow geese have left Des Lacs, Upper Souris, and J. Clark Salyer NWR's. We have had reports of large flocks remaining on some large lakes in North Dakota between Devil's Lake and South Dakota.

Refuges south of Sand Lake NWR

DeSoto NWR - 200,000 snow geese

Squaw Creek NWR - 102,000 snow geese

Author: William Schultze at 6DE-RWSDL
Date: 12/07/1999 12:57 PM
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 12/6/99

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 12/6/99

Canada Geese - 3000

Snow Geese - 22,000

Ducks - 100,000

Swans - 1900

The lakes were mostly frozen over on the morning of December 5. There are some small, open areas of water, mostly in northern Sand Lake and southern Mud Lake, that are holding some ducks and geese. Tundra swan numbers peaked on December 3, at 2800.

**Duck season closes on December 14.

No other areas were surveyed this week.

Author: William Schultze at 6DE-RWSDL
Date: 12/15/1999 3:40 PM
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 12/15/99

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 12/15/99

Canada Geese - 1300

Snow Geese - < 1,000

Ducks - 50,000

Swans - 300

There are still some open water areas on the two lakes, but they are getting smaller as the temperatures get colder.

Most of the snow geese have moved out. Snow goose numbers peaked at 140,000 on November 23. Snow goose use-days during the fall migration totalled 3,320,500. This is the highest number of use-days since the fall of 1988.

This will be the last Sand Lake waterfowl count of the century.

Happy Holidays!
