

William Schultze
10/04/01 02:13 PM

To: Waterfowl Migration Group
cc:
cc:
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/4/2001

Here's the first round of fall waterfowl estimates for Sand Lake NWR. I'll try to get them out by Wednesday of each week through the migration.

Please note this change from previous years: I do not plan to include ND station snow goose numbers, as North Dakota puts out a weekly summary. If you do not receive this ND summary, and would like to, let me know and I will forward it on to you each week when I receive it. They usually come out on Wednesdays, also.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/4/2001

Canada Geese - 2500

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 55,000

Swans - 8

The Canada geese are scattered throughout the refuge, flying out in small flocks. Mallards, gadwalls, northern shovelers, and green-winged teal make up the majority of the ducks. A few lesser scaup have recently moved in.

Bill Schultze
Wildlife Biologist
Sand Lake NWR
39650 Sand Lake Dr.
Columbia, SD 57433
(605)885-6320

William Schultze
10/10/01 09:06 AM

To: Waterfowl Migration Group
cc:
cc:
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/10/2001

There was very little change in waterfowl numbers from last week's count.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/10/2001

Canada Geese - 2800

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 50,000

Swans - 10

The Canada geese remain in small flocks scattered throughout the refuge. The majority of ducks are mallards, gadwalls, and shovelers. Green-winged teal numbers dropped, while numbers of canvasbacks increased.

Bill Schultze
Wildlife Biologist
Sand Lake NWR
39650 Sand Lake Dr.
Columbia, SD 57433
(605)885-6320

William Schultze
10/17/01 11:10 AM

To: Waterfowl Migration Group
cc:
cc:
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/17/2001

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/17/2001

Canada Geese - 3200

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 68,000

Swans - 480

Some lesser Canada geese have begun to show up on the refuge during the past week.

We have heard reports of some small flocks of snow geese in the area, but none have been observed on the refuge.

Mallards, shovelers, pintails, and lesser scaup make up the majority of the ducks on the refuge. There were significant increases in pintail and lesser scaup numbers. Buffleheads also moved into the refuge last week. Gadwall numbers have dropped. There are many ducks using the wetlands in the refuge vicinity.

Most of the swans are in Mud Lake(the north pool on the refuge).

Bill Schultze
Wildlife Biologist
Sand Lake NWR
39650 Sand Lake Dr.
Columbia, SD 57433
(605)885-6320

William Schultze
10/23/01 12:55 PM

To: Waterfowl Migration Group
cc:
cc:
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/23/2001

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/23/2001

Canada geese - 5000

Snow geese - 2000

Ducks - 90,000

Swans - 1000

More Canada geese moved in over the weekend. They are located in flocks throughout the entire refuge.

The snow geese that recently arrived are in small flocks in Mud Lake and in northern Sand Lake.

There was a considerable increase in mallard numbers this past week. They are beginning to feed in harvested fields near the refuge. Canvasback numbers also increased. Pintails, shovelers, and lesser scaup are present in good numbers. Some gadwalls and green-winged teal still remain on the refuge. Wetlands in the refuge vicinity continue to hold many ducks.

Swan numbers continued to increase on the refuge. The majority of the swans are in Mud Lake(the north pool on the refuge).

Bill Schultze
Wildlife Biologist
Sand Lake NWR
39650 Sand Lake Dr.
Columbia, SD 57433
(605)885-6320

William Schultze
10/30/01 09:36 AM

To: Waterfowl Migration Group
cc:
cc:
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/29/2001

There was a large movement of birds into the area near the end of last week. From the information we have received, most of the snow geese have left Canada and North Dakota.

Wetlands in the area began to freeze up with the cold weather late last week, but they have opened back up.

We completed an aerial survey of Sand Lake and northern Brown County on Monday. A total of 377,000 snow geese were counted during this survey. The results are listed below.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/29/2001

Canada geese - 14,000

Snow geese - 255,000

Ducks - 150,000

Swans - 1600

The snow geese are scattered throughout all of Sand Lake and the south half of Mud Lake. Feeding flights are going out in all directions.

Mallard numbers increased dramatically, along with more divers (lesser scaup and redheads). Many ducks can still be found in the wetlands in the refuge vicinity.

Most of the swans are in Mud Lake. There are also swans in some of the wetlands in the refuge area.

Snow goose estimates for other areas in northern Brown County, and Dakota Lakes, ND

Dakota Lakes area - 8,000

Elm Lake area - 44,000

East of Hecla - 15,000

Renziehausen area - 18,000

Putney Slough area - 37,000

William Schultze
11/06/01 08:11 AM

To: Waterfowl Migration Group
cc:
cc:
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/5/2001

Wetlands throughout the area are still open due to the warm weather.

Goose numbers remain high in Brown County. An aerial survey of Sand Lake NWR and northern Brown County was completed on Monday. A total of 426,500 snow geese were counted during this survey. The results are listed below.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/5/2001

Canada geese - 16,000

Snow geese - 285,000

Ducks - 80,000

Swans - 1600

Canada geese are scattered throughout the entire refuge.

Snow geese continue to use most of Sand Lake and the south half of Mud Lake. Feeding flights are going out in all directions.

Duck numbers have dropped on the refuge. Most of the ducks using the refuge are mallards.

Most of the swans are in Mud Lake and along the eastern edge of Sand Lake.

Snow goose estimates for other areas in northern Brown County, and Dakota Lakes, ND

Dakota Lakes area - 16,000

Elm Lake area - 18,500

Approximately 10 miles west of Sand Lake - 10,000

Renziehausen area - 22,000

Putney Slough area - 75,000

Bill Schultze
Wildlife Biologist
Sand Lake NWR
39650 Sand Lake Dr.
Columbia, SD 57433
(605)885-6320

William Schultze

11/14/01 09:14 AM

To: Waterfowl Migration Group

cc:

cc:

Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/13/2001

There has not been much change since last week. Wetlands throughout the area are still open due to the unusually warm weather.

Goose numbers remain high in Brown County. An aerial survey of Sand Lake NWR and northern Brown County was completed on Tuesday. Just over 500,000 snow geese were counted during this survey. The results are listed below.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/13/2001

Canada geese - 13,000

Snow geese - 300,000

Ducks - 80,000

Swans - 1400

Canada geese are scattered throughout the entire refuge.

Snow geese continue to use most of Sand Lake and the south half of Mud Lake. Feeding flights are going out in all directions.

Most of the ducks using the refuge are mallards.

Most of the swans are in Mud Lake and along the eastern edge of Sand Lake.

Snow goose estimates for other areas in northern Brown County, and Dakota Lakes, ND

Dakota Lakes area - 30,000

Elm Lake area - 3,000

Approximately 10 miles west of Sand Lake - 30,000

Renziehausen area - 64,000

Putney Slough area - 77,000

Bill Schultze
Wildlife Biologist
Sand Lake NWR
39650 Sand Lake Dr.
Columbia, SD 57433
(605)885-6320

William Schultze
11/21/01 09:18 AM

To: Waterfowl Migration Group
cc:
cc:
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/20/2001

Wetlands throughout the area are still open due to the unusually warm weather.

Goose numbers remain high in Brown County. An aerial survey of Sand Lake NWR and northern Brown County was completed on Tuesday, November 20. Just under 500,000 snow geese were counted during this survey. Mallard numbers have increased in the Putney Slough area. The results are listed below.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/20/2001

Canada geese - 13,000

Snow geese - 268,000

Ducks - 75,000

Swans - 1300

Canada geese are scattered throughout the entire refuge. There are also many Canada geese on wetlands around the refuge.

There are fewer snow geese using Mud Lake. Most of the snow geese are using northern and southern Sand Lake. Feeding flights continue to go out in all directions.

Mallard numbers dropped slightly from last week.

Most of the swans are in Mud Lake and in northern Sand Lake.

Snow goose estimates for other areas in northern Brown County, and Dakota Lakes, ND

Dakota Lakes area - 31,000

Elm Lake area - 14,000

Approximately 10 miles west of Sand Lake - 27,500

Renziehausen area - 2,000

Putney Slough area - 97,000

James River, just south of Highway 12 - 45,000

Bill Schultze
Wildlife Biologist
Sand Lake NWR
39650 Sand Lake Dr.
Columbia, SD 57433
(605)885-6320

William Schultze
11/29/01 03:56 PM

To: Waterfowl Migration Group
cc:
cc:
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/28/2001 - Final

The winter storm on Monday night and Tuesday has driven most of the waterfowl out of the area. We received about 6 inches of snow, along with strong north winds. All wetlands are frozen over, except for small open areas of moving water on our main pools.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/28/2001 - Final

Canada geese - 1,000

Snow geese - 5,000

Ducks - 2,500

Swans - 250

Until next year.....

Bill Schultze
Wildlife Biologist
Sand Lake NWR
39650 Sand Lake Dr.
Columbia, SD 57433
(605)885-6320