

**William Schultze**  
10/01/03 10:18 AM

To: Allen Olson/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, Beth Ullenberg/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, Bridgette Flanders-Wanner/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, Donald Soderlund/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, Gene Williams/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, Jay Peterson/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, John Jave/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, Marcia Haaland/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, Neil Powers/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, bill.antonides@state.sd.us, brook.brown@state.sd.us, iadnrcl@netins.net, joan.delight@state.sd.us, paul.mammenga@state.sd.us, Spencer\_Vaa@sdstate.edu, Will.Morlock@state.sd.us, Kenneth Torkelson/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, Richard Speer/R3/FWS/DOI@FWS, Paulette Scherr/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, kwoster@argusleader.com, Mark.Grovijahn@state.sd.us

cc:

Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/1/2003

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/1/2003**

Canada Geese - 1200

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 45,000

Swans - 35

Duck numbers are made up mostly of northern shovelers, gadwalls, and mallards. Duck numbers on the refuge have dropped during the last 2 - 3 weeks.

The first swans were seen on the refuge on 9/29.

Bill Schultze  
Wildlife Biologist  
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Columbia, SD 57433  
(605)885-6320

**William Schultze**  
10/08/03 10:54 AM

To: Waterfowl Migration Group  
cc:  
cc:  
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/8/2003

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/8/2003**

Canada Geese - 1500

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 60,000

Swans - 35

Duck numbers are made up mostly of northern shovelers, gadwalls, mallards, and green-winged teal. More wigeon have also showed up over the past week.

The swans are now in northern Sand Lake, about 1 mile south of State Highway 10.

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/1/2003**

Canada Geese - 1200

Snow Geese - 0

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**William Schultze**  
10/15/03 10:58 AM

To: Waterfowl Migration Group  
cc:  
cc:  
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/15/2003

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/15/2003**

Canada Geese - 2100

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 87,000

Swans - 120

Duck numbers have jumped up during the last week. We are seeing more mallards, pintails, and canvasbacks. Gadwall and green-winged teal numbers have dropped. The first buffleheads showed up today.

Most of the swans are in northern Sand Lake, about 1 mile south of State Highway 10, and in southern Mud Lake.

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/8/2003**

Canada Geese - 1500

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 60,000

Swans - 35

Duck numbers are made up mostly of northern shovelers, gadwalls, mallards, and green-winged teal. More wigeon have also showed up over the past week.

The swans are now in northern Sand Lake, about 1 mile south of State Highway 10.

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**William Schultze**  
10/22/03 10:26 AM

To: Waterfowl Migration Group  
cc:  
cc:  
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/22/2003

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/22/2003**

Canada Geese - 2100

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 125,000

Swans - 260

Small flocks of snow geese have been reported in the area.

Mallard numbers increased on the refuge over the past weekend. Flocks are beginning to feed in some of the harvested fields surrounding the refuge.

Swans continue to use northern Sand Lake and southern Mud Lake.

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/15/2003**

Canada Geese - 2100

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 87,000

Swans - 120

Duck numbers have jumped up during the last week. We are seeing more mallards, pintails, and canvasbacks. Gadwall and green-winged teal numbers have dropped. The first buffleheads showed up today.

Most of the swans are in northern Sand Lake, about 1 mile south of State Highway 10, and in southern Mud Lake.

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**William Schultze**  
10/29/03 10:32 AM

To: Waterfowl Migration Group  
cc:  
cc:  
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/29/2003

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/29/2003**

Canada Geese - 3000

Snow Geese - 8500

Ducks - 135,000

Swans - 360

Snow geese began moving into the refuge the end of last week.

Pintail numbers have increase the last few days. There are still alot of canvasbacks on Sand Lake, and more lesser scaup have moved in. Increasing numbers of mallards are feeding in the fields near the refuge.

Swans continue to use northern Sand Lake and southern Mud Lake.

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/22/2003**

Canada Geese - 2100

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 125,000

Swans - 260

Small flocks of snow geese have been reported in the area.

Mallard numbers increased on the refuge over the past weekend. Flocks are beginning to feed in some of the harvested fields surrounding the refuge.

Swans continue to use northern Sand Lake and southern Mud Lake.

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William Schultze  
11/05/03 11:03 AM

To:  
cc:  
cc:  
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/5/2003

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/5/2003**

Canada Geese - 1800

Snow Geese - 135,000 *-50,000+ @ Putney + many mallards*

Ducks - 40,000

Swans - 800

A winter storm passed through northeast South Dakota on Monday. The Sand Lake area received 3 inches of snow, and the lakes are mostly frozen over. Temperatures are predicted to be in the single digits the next few nights, so chances of the lakes opening back up are small. The birds remaining on the refuge are standing on the ice, with some using small open areas of water.

Snow geese numbers grew to over 210,000 on Sunday and Monday. *11/2 11/23*

Duck numbers have dropped from a peak of over 150,000 on Sunday. *11/2*

The swans are on the ice in both Mud Lake and Sand Lake.

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/29/2003**

Canada Geese - 3000

Snow Geese - 8500

Ducks - 135,000

Swans - 360

Snow geese began moving into the refuge the end of last week.

Pintail numbers have increase the last few days. There are still alot of canvasbacks on Sand Lake, and more lesser scaup have moved in. Increasing numbers of mallards are feeding in the fields near the refuge.

Swans continue to use northern Sand Lake and southern Mud Lake.

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**William Schultze**  
11/12/03 11:32 AM

To: Waterfowl Migration Group  
cc:  
cc:  
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/12/2003

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/12/2003**

Canada Geese - 1500

Snow Geese - 95,000

Ducks - 35,000

Swans - 250

The lakes on Sand Lake are mostly frozen over, except for several small, open areas, and portions of the river channel. The majority of the geese are using Sand Lake, with a smaller flock in Mud Lake. Mallard numbers have dropped considerably from the peak, but there are still huntable numbers.

There are over 100,000 snow geese and huntable numbers of mallards using Putney Slough.

The majority of swans are in Mud Lake.

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/5/2003**

Canada Geese - 1800

Snow Geese - 135,000

Ducks - 40,000

Swans - 800

A winter storm passed through northeast South Dakota on Monday. The Sand Lake area received 3 inches of snow, and the lakes are mostly frozen over. Temperatures are predicted to be in the single digits the next few nights, so chances of the lakes opening back up are small. The birds remaining on the refuge are standing on the ice, with some using small open areas of water.

Snow geese numbers grew to over 210,000 on Sunday and Monday.

Duck numbers have dropped from a peak of over 150,000 on Sunday.

The swans are on the ice in both Mud Lake and Sand Lake.

Final-2003

William Schultze

11/26/03 10:50 AM

To: Waterfowl Migration Group

cc:

cc:

Subject: Final Sand Lake Report

As of November 25, it looks like all of the snow geese and most of the other waterfowl have left the Sand Lake area. There are still close to 1000 Canada geese and several hundred mallards remaining in open water near the Mud Lake water control structure.

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#'s were similar to 11/12 counts on 11/19. The new report was done.  
#'s of snow geese were down to ~60,000 by 11/22. A storm & colder weather ~~on 11/23 & 11/24~~ moved them here & S to Sioux Falls on 11/22 & 11/23. ~60,000 remained on 11/23. Some were left on 11/24, but by the morning of 11/25, no more snows were observed.