

**William
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI**
09/26/2005 12:41 PM

To Waterfowl Migration Group
cc
bcc
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 9/28/2005

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 9/28/2005

Canada Geese - 1200

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 26,000

Swans - 20

Canada geese are scattered in small flocks throughout the refuge.

Duck numbers on the refuge are made up of mostly mallards, gadwalls, and shovelers. There are good numbers of ducks in smaller wetlands both east and west of the refuge.

The first tundra swans showed up on the refuge on 9/25. They are located in southern Mud Lake.

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

**William
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI**
10/05/2005 11:28 AM

To Allen Olson/R6/FWS/DOI, Beth Ullenberg/R6/FWS/DOI,
Donald Soderlund/R6/FWS/DOI, Gene
Williams/R6/FWS/DOI, Jay Peterson/R6/FWS/DOI, John
cc
bcc
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/5/2005

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/5/2005

Canada Geese - 1200

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 25,000

Swans - 100

There was very little change of waterfowl numbers from last week. A few canvasbacks moved into Mud Lake, but mallards, gadwalls, and shovelers still make up the majority of ducks on the refuge.

The tundra swans are located in southern Mud Lake and northern Sand Lake.

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Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 26,000

Swans - 20

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Duck numbers on the refuge are made up of mostly mallards, gadwalls, and shovelers. There are good numbers of ducks in smaller wetlands both east and west of the refuge.

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

William
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI
10/12/2005 10:41 AM

To Waterfowl Migration Group
cc
bcc
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/12/2005

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/12/2005

Canada Geese - 2000

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 45,000

Swans - 320

There have been reports of several small flocks of snow geese in the area, but none have been observed on the refuge.

The increase in duck numbers was mostly mallards, with a small increase in pintals. There are still good numbers of gadwalls and shovelers. Diving duck numbers remain low on the refuge.

The tundra swans continue to use southern Mud Lake and northern Sand Lake.

Most of the soybeans in the refuge area have been harvested. Waterfowl are beginning to use some of those fields

*Just a reminder that the interior refuge roads will close for the season on Friday, October 14.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/5/2005

Canada Geese - 1200

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 25,000

Swans - 100

There was very little change of waterfowl numbers from last week. A few canvasbacks moved into Mud Lake, but mallards, gadwalls, and shovelers still make up the majority of ducks on the refuge.

The tundra swans are located in southern Mud Lake and northern Sand Lake.

Bill Schultze
Wildlife Biologist
Sand Lake NWR

William
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI
10/18/2005 11:25 AM

To Waterfowl Migration Group
cc
bcc
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/18/2005

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/18/2005

Canada Geese - 2000

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 55,000

Swans - 950

More diving ducks began to show up on the refuge near the end of last week. Increases were noted in lesser scaup, redhead, and canvasback numbers. The first buffleheads of the fall also moved in. Mallards make up the majority of puddle ducks on the refuge. Gadwall and shoveler numbers appeared to have dropped some.

Tundra swan numbers continue to build. The majority of the swans are in the south half of Mud Lake. Several hundred are using northern Sand Lake.

There are still good duck numbers using the wetlands surrounding the refuge. Some tundra swans have also been observed on some of these wetlands.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/12/2005

Canada Geese - 2000

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 45,000

Swans - 320

There have been reports of several small flocks of snow geese in the area, but none have been observed on the refuge.

The increase in duck numbers was mostly mallards, with a small increase in pintails. There are still good numbers of gadwalls and shovelers. Diving duck numbers remain low on the refuge.

The tundra swans continue to use southern Mud Lake and northern Sand Lake.

Most of the soybeans in the refuge area have been harvested. Waterfowl are beginning to use some of those fields

William
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI
10/26/2005 08:18 AM

To Waterfowl Migration Group
cc
bcc
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/26/2005

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/26/2005

Canada Geese - 2800

Snow Geese - 3000

Ducks - 75,000

Swans - 1850

The first snow geese were observed on the refuge on the 19th. The 3000 snow geese on the refuge are in two small flocks in southern Mud Lake and northern Sand Lake, and have been feeding to the west.

Mallard numbers took a big jump on the refuge over the weekend, but numbers dropped back to approximately 75,000 by mid-week. Many of them must have dispersed to the surrounding wetlands.

Tundra swan numbers continue to build. The south half of Mud Lake and northern Sand Lake are holding the majority of the swans. There are also a few at the very south end of the refuge.

There are still good duck numbers and some swans using the wetlands east of the refuge. The corn harvest in the area got a good start this past week. Waterfowl are already using some of the harvested fields.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/18/2005

Canada Geese - 2000

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 55,000

Swans - 950

More diving ducks began to show up on the refuge near the end of last week. Increases were noted in lesser scaup, redhead, and canvasback numbers. The first buffleheads of the fall also moved in. Mallards make up the majority of puddle ducks on the refuge. Gadwall and shoveler numbers appeared to have dropped some.

Tundra swan numbers continue to build. The majority of the swans are in the south half of Mud Lake. Several hundred are using northern Sand Lake.

There are still good duck numbers using the wetlands surrounding the refuge. Some tundra swans have also been observed on some of these wetlands.

William
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI
11/02/2005 11:19 AM

To
cc
bcc
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/2/2005

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/2/2005

Canada Geese - 4200

Snow Geese - 17,000

Ducks - 120,000

Swans - 2800

9,500 ducks on 11/1
30,000 ducks on 11/3

More snow geese have been moving into the refuge over the past couple of days. They are currently using northern Sand Lake and are feeding west of the refuge.

Mallard numbers are building on the refuge, and there are still many mallards in the wetlands surrounding the refuge.

Tundra swan numbers are still rising. The largest numbers are in the south half of Mud Lake, with some in northern Sand Lake and at the very south end of the refuge. Swans are also using some of the wetlands east of the refuge.

The corn harvest is nearing completion in the area. Waterfowl are feeding in many of the harvested fields.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/26/2005

Canada Geese - 2800

Snow Geese - 3000

Ducks - 75,000

Swans - 1850

The first snow geese were observed on the refuge on the 19th. The 3000 snow geese on the refuge are in two small flocks in southern Mud Lake and northern Sand Lake, and have been feeding to the west.

Mallard numbers took a big jump on the refuge over the weekend, but numbers dropped back to approximately 75,000 by mid-week. Many of them must have dispersed to the surrounding wetlands.

Tundra swan numbers continue to build. The south half of Mud Lake and northern Sand Lake are holding the majority of the swans. There are also a few at the very south end of the refuge.

There are still good duck numbers and some swans using the wetlands east of the refuge. The corn

William
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI
11/09/2005 12:19 PM

To Allen Olson/R6/FWS/DOI, Beth Ullenberg/R6/FWS/DOI,
Donald Soderlund/R6/FWS/DOI, Gene
Williams/R6/FWS/DOI, Jay Peterson/R6/FWS/DOI, John
cc
bcc
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/9/2005

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/9/2005

Canada Geese - 5000

Snow Geese - 45,000

Ducks - 140,000

Swans - 3200

11/10 - More snow arriving - ~150,000
11/11 - 200,000
11/13 - 230,000

Snow goose numbers continue to build slowly. They are continuing to use northern Sand Lake and are feeding west of the refuge. Several small flocks of snow geese have been reported in the Putney Slough area, southeast of Sand Lake.

Mallards numbers are building in both Mud Lake and Sand Lake. Diver numbers, especially canvasbacks, increased over night.

Tundra swan numbers remain distributed in the south half of Mud Lake, northern Sand Lake and at the very south end of the refuge. Swans are also still being reported on some of the wetlands east of the refuge.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/2/2005

Canada Geese - 4200

Snow Geese - 17,000

Ducks - 120,000

Swans - 2800

More snow geese have been moving into the refuge over the past couple of days. They are currently using northern Sand Lake and are feeding west of the refuge.

Mallard numbers are building on the refuge, and there are still many mallards in the wetlands surrounding the refuge.

Tundra swan numbers are still rising. The largest numbers are in the south half of Mud Lake, with some in northern Sand Lake and at the very south end of the refuge. Swans are also using some of the wetlands east of the refuge.

William
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI
11/16/2005 11:02 AM

To Waterfowl Migration Group
cc
bcc
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/16/2005

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/16/2005

Canada Geese - 2100

Snow Geese - 180,000

Ducks - 110,000

Swans - 1800

Last night, a temperature of 7 degrees froze most of the surrounding wetlands and the lakes on the refuge. There are currently just small open pockets of water on the refuge pools. The forecast for today is a high temperature of 21, and tonight is for winds to decrease and temperatures to drop to near zero.

Snow goose numbers built to 150,000 on the 10th, and peaked at 240,000 on the 13th. This morning, the snow geese were scattered throughout Sand Lake and in southern Mud Lake.

Some large flocks of lesser scaup moved in on the 11th. Duck numbers peaked at 160,000 on the 13th. Currently, mostly mallards remain on the refuge, and are in large flocks in southern Mud Lake, northern Sand Lake, and in some pockets along the eastern edge of Sand Lake.

The swans are sitting on the ice in southern Mud Lake and throughout Sand Lake.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/9/2005

Canada Geese - 5000

Snow Geese - 45,000

Ducks - 140,000

Swans - 3200

Snow goose numbers continue to build slowly. They are continuing to use northern Sand Lake and are feeding west of the refuge. Several small flocks of snow geese have been reported in the Putney Slough area, southeast of Sand Lake.

Mallards numbers are building in both Mud Lake and Sand Lake. Diver numbers, especially canvasbacks, increased over night.

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William
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI
11/22/2005 12:44 PM

To
cc
bcc

Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/22/2005

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/22/2005

Canada Geese - 2500

Snow Geese - 150,000

Ducks - 90,000

Swans - 150

11/25 - 60,000 Snow Geese
11/29 - 30,000 Snow Geese

Parts of the river channel have opened up since the lakes froze over last week. There are also small pockets of open water scattered throughout the lakes.

Snow goose numbers have remained relatively high since last week. There are also reports of many snow geese using Putney Slough, southeast of Sand Lake, and Scatterwood Lakes, southwest of Aberdeen.

Most of the ducks are concentrated in large flocks in northern Sand Lake, with some on the ice in southern Mud Lake.

The majority of the remaining swans are in northern Sand Lake.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/16/2005

Canada Geese - 2100

Snow Geese - 180,000

Ducks - 110,000

Swans - 1800

Last night, a temperature of 7 degrees froze most of the surrounding wetlands and the lakes on the refuge. There are currently just small open pockets of water on the refuge pools. The forecast for today is a high temperature of 21, and tonight is for winds to decrease and temperatures to drop to near zero.

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The swans are sitting on the ice in southern Mud Lake and throughout Sand Lake.

William
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI
11/30/2005 11:41 AM

To Allen Olson/R6/FWS/DOI, Beth Ullenberg/R6/FWS/DOI,
Donald Soderlund/R6/FWS/DOI, Gene
Williams/R6/FWS/DOI, Jay Peterson/R6/FWS/DOI, John
cc
bcc
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/30/2005 -
Final Report

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/30/2005

Canada Geese - 1000

Snow Geese - <100

Ducks - <500

Swans - 0

The winter storm that moved through the area on the 28th moved most of the waterfowl out of Sand Lake. We received over 1/2 inch of rain/sleet prior to 3 inches of snow during the storm. Needless to say, everything is covered with a thick layer of ice.

The remaining waterfowl are concentrated in the open water below the Mud Lake structure, north of highway 10.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/22/2005

Canada Geese - 2500

Snow Geese - 150,000

Ducks - 90,000

Swans - 150

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