

**William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI**  
09/20/2006 09:53 AM

To Waterfowl Migration Group  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 9/20/2006

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 9/20/2006**

**Canada Geese - 900**

**Snow Geese - 0**

**Ducks - 20,000**

**Swans - 2**

**Waterfowl numbers from Sand Lake to the west are low, due to drought conditons throughout the summer. Wetland conditions from Sand Lake to the east are relatively good, and should provide good hunting opportunities.**

**Waterfowl distribution on Sand Lake Refuge will be different from other years, as Sand Lake(the south pool on the refuge) was drawn down this summer. The water in Sand Lake is very shallow, and covers an area approximately 1/3 of the usual area for this time of year.**

**The majority of Canada geese are in smaller flocks in Mud Lake.**

**Duck species on the refuge are made up of mostly mallards, northern shovelers, and gadwalls.**

**The first tundra swans of the fall were observed today.**

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

**William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI**  
09/26/2006 03:00 PM

To Waterfowl Migration Group  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 9/26/2006

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 9/26/2006**

Canada Geese - 900

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 20,000

Swans - 2

No change from last week's report.

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 9/20/2006**

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Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 20,000

Swans - 2

Waterfowl numbers from Sand Lake to the west are low, due to drought conditions throughout the summer. Wetland conditions from Sand Lake to the east are relatively good, and should provide good hunting opportunities.

Waterfowl distribution on Sand Lake Refuge will be different from other years, as Sand Lake (the south pool on the refuge) was drawn down this summer. The water in Sand Lake is very shallow, and covers an area approximately 1/3 of the usual area for this time of year.

The majority of Canada geese are in smaller flocks in Mud Lake.

Duck species on the refuge are made up of mostly mallards, northern shovelers, and gadwalls.

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**William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI**  
10/04/2006 11:05 AM

To Waterfowl Migration Group  
cc  
bcc

Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/4/2006

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/4/2006**

Canada Geese - 1600

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 34,000

Swans - 50

The Canada geese are evenly distributed throughout the entire refuge.

Mallard and shoveler numbers have increased during the past week. There are some small flocks beginning to feed in fields adjacent to the refuge. The soybean harvest is just getting started in the refuge area. Several small flocks of canvasbacks have moved into Mud Lake.

The majority of swans are in the middle of Mud Lake. There is a small flock in Sand Lake, just north of State Highway 10.

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 9/26/2006**

Canada Geese - 900

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 20,000

Swans - 2

No change from last week's report.

**Bill Schultze  
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**William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI**  
10/11/2006 11:32 AM

To Waterfowl Migration Group  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/11/2006

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/11/2006**

Canada Geese - 2000

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 60,000

Swans - 65

The Canada geese are evenly distributed throughout the entire refuge.

Mallard and green-winged teal numbers have increased on the refuge this past week. Diver numbers are also beginning to build, with increases in ruddy ducks, and a few small flocks of lesser scaup showing up. Local farmers are just beginning the corn harvest. Many of the soybean fields in the refuge area have been harvested.

The majority of swans remain in the middle of Mud Lake, and just north of State Highway 10, in Sand Lake.

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Canada Geese - 1600

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 34,000

Swans - 50

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Bill Schultze  
Wildlife Biologist  
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39650 Sand Lake Dr.  
Columbia, SD 57433

**William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI**  
10/18/2006 11:08 AM

To Waterfowl Migration Group  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/18/2006

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/18/2006**

Canada Geese - 2300

Snow Geese - 2500

Ducks - 90,000

Swans - 200

The first snow geese were observed on October 12. Currently, the geese are on Sand Lake, about 1.5 miles south of highway 10.

The Canada geese are evenly distributed throughout the entire refuge.

Mallard and green-winged teal numbers continued to increase on the refuge this past week. Ducks are moving into Sand Lake, as water is rising up into the smartweed, that grew during the draw-down this past summer. The corn harvest is continuing in the area, but has slowed down with the recent rain.

The majority of swans remain in the middle of Mud Lake, and just north of State Highway 10, in Sand Lake.

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/11/2006**

Canada Geese - 2000

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 60,000

Swans - 65

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The majority of swans remain in the middle of Mud Lake, and just north of State Highway 10, in Sand Lake.

Bill Schultze  
Wildlife Biologist  
Sand Lake NWR

**William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI**  
10/24/2006 01:44 PM

To  
cc  
bcc

**Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/24/2006**

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/24/2006**

**Canada Geese - 3200**

**Snow Geese - 24,000**

**Ducks - 125,000**

**Swans - 700**

Waterfowl numbers continued to increase during the past week. The snow geese are on Sand Lake, about 1.5 miles south of highway 10. Small Canada geese and a few white-fronted geese are now on the refuge. The Canada geese are evenly distributed throughout the entire refuge.

Mallards and green-winged teal make up the majority of the ducks on the refuge. Mallard numbers have increased and green-winged teal numbers have declined some during the past week. Ducks numbers continue to increase in Sand Lake(the south pool), as water is rising up into the smartweed, that grew during the draw-down this past summer. The corn harvest is probably just over half done in the refuge area.

Most of the tundra swans are now using Sand Lake.

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/18/2006**

**Canada Geese - 2300**

**Snow Geese - 2500**

**Ducks - 90,000**

**Swans - 200**

The first snow geese were observed on October 12. Currently, the geese are on Sand Lake, about 1.5 miles south of highway 10.

The Canada geese are evenly distributed throughout the entire refuge.

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The majority of swans remain in the middle of Mud Lake, and just north of State Highway 10, in Sand Lake.

William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI  
11/01/2006 01:10 PM

To  
cc  
bcc

Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/1/2006

#### **Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/1/2006**

Canada Geese - 2500

Snow Geese - 85,000

Ducks - 160,000

Swans - 950

There has been a big movement of waterfowl in the area the past couple of days. We have had three days of strong northwest winds and cold temperatures. The lakes on the refuge are mostly frozen over, with small open areas on parts of the lakes. Forcasts for the next couple of days are calling for highs in the low 30's, lows in the low teens, and decreasing winds, which may freeze up the remaining open water.

Waterfowl numbers are changing rapidly, and probably will continue to do so. There were approximately 150,000 snow geese on the refuge on 10/31. Although counts showed only 85,000 on the refuge and in the immediate area today, there are probably more in the surrounding fields.

Duck numbers peaked at over 200,000 on 10/29. Most of the ducks are mallards and are concentrated in some of the open water areas in both Mud Lake and Sand Lake. There are some large flocks feeding in adjacent picked corn fields.

Most of the tundra swans are sitting on the ice in both Mud Lake and Sand Lake.

Three whooping cranes spent 4 days in a wetland near Sand Lake during the past week. It appears that they left the area with the strong northwest winds on 10/29.

#### **Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/24/2006**

Canada Geese - 3200

Snow Geese - 24,000

Ducks - 125,000

Swans - 700

Waterfowl numbers continued to increase during the past week. The snow geese are on Sand Lake, about 1.5 miles south of highway 10. Small Canada geese and a few white-fronted geese are now on the refuge. The Canada geese are evenly distributed throughout the entire refuge.

Mallards and green-winged teal make up the majority of the ducks on the refuge. Mallard numbers have increased and green-winged teal numbers have declined some during the past week. Ducks numbers continue to increase in Sand Lake(the south pool), as water is rising up into the smartweed, that grew

William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI  
11/03/2006 11:34 AM

To Allen Olson/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, Beth  
Ullenberg/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, Donald  
Soderlund/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, Gene  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Sand Lake NWR Waterfowl Estimates - 11/3/2006

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/3/2006**

Canada Geese - 2500

Snow Geese - 200,000

Ducks - 160,000

Swans - 950

There are at least 200,000 snow geese on Sand Lake and Mud Lake today, with more in the area. Temperatures got down to 9 degrees last night, so there are only a few small open areas of water on the lakes. Temperatures are supposed to warm up to highs in the 50's next week.

Most of the ducks have moved up into Mud Lake.

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/1/2006**

Canada Geese - 2500

Snow Geese - 85,000

Ducks - 160,000

Swans - 950

There has been a big movement of waterfowl in the area the past couple of days. We have had three days of strong northwest winds and cold temperatures. The lakes on the refuge are mostly frozen over, with small open areas on parts of the lakes. Forecasts for the next couple of days are calling for highs in the low 30's, lows in the low teens, and decreasing winds, which may freeze up the remaining open water.

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Most of the tundra swans are sitting on the ice in both Mud Lake and Sand Lake.

Three whooping cranes spent 4 days in a wetland near Sand Lake during the past week. It appears that they left the area with the strong northwest winds on 10/29.

**William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI  
11/08/2006 11:05 AM**

**To  
cc  
bcc**

**Subject Sand Lake NWR Waterfowl Estimates - 11/8/2006**

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/8/2006**

**Canada Geese - 6000**

**Snow Geese - 410,000**

**Ducks - 300,000**

**Swans - 1500**

**Temperatures have been in the 50's and 60's the last few days. The lakes and wetlands on the refuge and in the area opened back up over the weekend.**

**We flew the area on 11/7. There were 200,000 snow geese and large numbers of mallards on Putney Slough, 25,000 snow geese on Scatterwood Lake, and 34,000 snow geese and many ducks on Elm Lake. Some of the smaller, private wetlands west of Sand Lake were also holding snow geese.**

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/3/2006**

**Canada Geese - 2500**

**Snow Geese - 200,000**

**Ducks - 160,000**

**Swans - 950**

**There are at least 200,000 snow geese on Sand Lake and Mud Lake today, with more in the area. Temperatures got down to 9 degrees last night, so there are only a few small open areas of water on the lakes. Temperatures are supposed to warm up to highs in the 50's next week.**

**Most of the ducks have moved up into Mud Lake.**

**Bill Schultze  
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Columbia, SD 57433  
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**William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI**  
11/14/2006 11:42 AM

To  
cc  
bcc

**Subject Sand Lake NWR Waterfowl Estimates - 11/14/2006**

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/14/2006**

Canada Geese - 8000

Snow Geese - 230,000

Ducks - 200,000

Swans - 1000

The lakes and wetlands on the refuge and in the area are still open.

Snow goose numbers on the refuge have dropped, but there are many snow geese using other wetlands in the area. Putney Slough and the area along the James River near US Highway 12 are still holding good numbers of snow geese.

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/8/2006**

Canada Geese - 6000

Snow Geese - 410,000

Ducks - 300,000

Swans - 1500

Temperatures have been in the 50's and 60's the last few days. The lakes and wetlands on the refuge and in the area opened back up over the weekend.

We flew the area on 11/7. There were 200,000 snow geese and large numbers of mallards on Putney Slough, 25,000 snow geese on Scatterwood Lake, and 34,000 snow geese and many ducks on Elm Lake. Some of the smaller, private wetlands west of Sand Lake were also holding snow geese.

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**William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI  
11/21/2006 03:20 PM**

**To  
cc  
bcc**

**Subject Sand Lake NWR Waterfowl Estimates - 11/21/2006**

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/21/2006**

**Canada Geese - 5000**

**Snow Geese - 160,000**

**Ducks - 110,000**

**Swans - 750**

**Most of the refuge pools are frozen over, but there are still some pretty big open water areas.**

**There are still good numbers of snow geese on other wetlands within Brown County.**

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/14/2006**

**Canada Geese - 8000**

**Snow Geese - 230,000**

**Ducks - 200,000**

**Swans - 1000**

**The lakes and wetlands on the refuge and in the area are still open.**

**Snow goose numbers on the refuge have dropped, but there are many snow geese using other wetlands in the area. Putney Slough and the area along the James River near US Highway 12 are still holding good numbers of snow geese.**

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Columbia, SD 57433  
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**William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI**  
11/28/2006 02:27 PM

To Waterfowl Migration Group  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Sand Lake NWR Waterfowl Estimates - 11/29/2006 - Final  
Report

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/29/2006**

Canada Geese - 900

Snow Geese - 500

Ducks - 400

Swans - 0

The lakes opened up towards the end of last week, but were mostly frozen over again on Sunday, Nov. 26. Geese and ducks were moving out of the area over the past weekend. Yesterday (Nov. 28), there were approximately 1500 Canada geese, 5000 snow geese, 8000 ducks and 380 swans on the refuge. Last night, there were strong NW winds, and temperatures dropped to -1, with a high of 13 predicted today. The birds remaining on the refuge this morning were in scattered flocks on the ice. Looks like it's over for another year. Hope everyone winters well.

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/21/2006**

Canada Geese - 5000

Snow Geese - 160,000

Ducks - 110,000

Swans - 750

Most of the refuge pools are frozen over, but there are still some pretty big open water areas.

There are still good numbers of snow geese on other wetlands within Brown County.

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