

William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI  
10/01/2008 11:21 AM

To Waterfowl Migration Group  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/1/2008

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/1/2008

Canada Geese - 3000

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 21,000

Swans - 10

Most of the ducks on the refuge are using Mud Lake, which is the northern pool. Shovelers and green-winged teal make up the majority of ducks, with some mallards, pintails, gadwalls, and a few divers.

The first tundra swans were observed on the refuge on September 29.

Soybean harvest has begun in the refuge area.

Wetland conditions in Brown County are good and should provide some good hunting opportunities.

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

William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI  
10/08/2008 11:01 AM

To  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/8/2008

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/8/2008

Canada Geese - 2700

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 28,000

Swans - 20

The majority of ducks have shifted from Mud Lake to Sand Lake this week. The increase in duck numbers this week is made up mostly of shovelers, with a small increase in mallards. Shovelers and green-winged teal still make up the majority of ducks on the refuge. Several buffleheads were observed on the refuge today.

All of the tundra swans are currently in Mud Lake.

Soybean harvest in the refuge area has been stalled due to rains last weekend.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/1/2008

Canada Geese - 3000

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 21,000

Swans - 10

Most of the ducks on the refuge are using Mud Lake, which is the northern pool. Shovelers and green-winged teal make up the majority of ducks, with some mallards, pintails, gadwalls, and a few divers.

The first tundra swans were observed on the refuge on September 29.

Soybean harvest has begun in the refuge area.

William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI  
10/14/2008 03:00 PM

To  
cc  
bcc

Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/14/2008

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/14/2008

Canada Geese - 2500

Snow Geese - 500

Ducks - 34,000

Swans - 65

We received 3.7 inches of rain at the refuge since the last report. Many temporary wetlands are now full, providing new feeding areas for waterfowl.

The drop in Canada goose numbers on the refuge is probably the result of the birds using some of the "new water" in the area.

The first white-fronted geese of the fall season were seen on October 13. The first snow geese were seen today, October 14.

The majority of ducks on the refuge are still shovelers and green-winged teal. The increase in duck numbers this week is made up mostly of shovelers, with a smaller increase of wigeon and some new canvasbacks being observed. We expect many of the dabbling ducks that move into the area to use the newly created wetlands around the refuge.

The tundra swans are currently in Mud Lake. Quite a few swans are being reported in wetlands in the surrounding area.

Some progress was made on the soybean harvest last week prior to the heavy weekend rains. There are still some fields of standing soybeans in the area.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/8/2008

Canada Geese - 2700

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 28,000

William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI  
10/21/2008 11:43 AM

To Waterfowl Migration Group  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/21/2008

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/21/2008

Canada Geese - 2500

Snow Geese - 1200

Ducks - 30,000

Swans - 180

There was not much of a change from last week. The majority of ducks on the refuge are still shovelers. There was a small increase in mallard numbers noted. With higher than normal water levels in the refuge, and shallow water in the fields around the refuge, we expect alot of waterfowl use in the wetlands around the refuge.

Most of the tundra swans on the refuge are currently in Mud Lake. Swans are being reported in quite a few wetlands in the surrounding area.

There are still some fields of unharvested soybeans in the area. The corn harvest is just beginning, but will probably be delayed with the precipitation predicted for Wednesday and Thursday.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/14/2008

Canada Geese - 2500

Snow Geese - 500

Ducks - 34,000

Swans - 65

We received 3.7 inches of rain at the refuge since the last report. Many temporary wetlands are now full, providing new feeding areas for waterfowl.

The drop in Canada goose numbers on the refuge is probably the result of the birds using some of the "new water" in the area.

The first white-fronted geese of the fall season were seen on October 13. The first snow geese

William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI  
10/29/2008 11:11 AM

To  
cc  
bcc

Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/29/2008

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/29/2008

Canada Geese - 5000

Snow Geese - 60,000

Ducks - 135,000

Swans - 200

The cold front that moved through last weekend brought alot of new birds into the area. Cold temperatures on Sunday and Monday nights froze many of the smaller surrounding wetlands, and forced many of the ducks using those wetlands into the open water on the refuge. If it warms back up, many of the ducks now on the refuge will probably disperse again. Mallards make up the majority of ducks on the refuge now. Increases in wigeon and gadwall were also noted. The first lesser scaup of the fall were observed on Monday.

Snow goose numbers have been gradually building since the weekend. The majority of snow geese are currently using Sand Lake, and flying out to the southeast and southwest. Approximately 20,000 snow geese were on Putney Slough on Monday.

Many flocks of small Canada geese can now be found throughout the refuge.

The tundra swans are using both Mud Lake and northern Sand Lake. Swans are still being seen in the larger wetlands in the surrounding area.

The harvest is just getting going again after the wet weather last week. There are still some fields of unharvested soybeans. The corn harvest is just beginning.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/21/2008

Canada Geese - 2500

Snow Geese - 1200

Ducks - 30,000

Swans - 180

William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI  
11/05/2008 11:53 AM

To Waterfowl Migration Group  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/5/2008

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/5/2008

Canada Geese - 5700

Snow Geese - 75,000

Ducks - 140,000

Swans - 260

Although waterfowl numbers on the refuge have not changed much since last week, there are more waterfowl in the area. All of the wetlands that were frozen over during last week's count are now open, and many are holding birds. Mallards continue to make up the majority of ducks on the refuge and in many of the surrounding wetlands.

Snow goose numbers on the refuge built to over 110,000 on Saturday, before dropping to current levels. There are many snow geese using some of the larger wetlands throughout Brown County.

The tundra swans are using both Mud Lake and Sand Lake. Swans are still being seen in wetlands in the surrounding area.

The corn harvest in the area has progressed some during the past week, but still has a long way to go.

A winter storm is predicted for this area on Thursday night and Friday, so waterfowl numbers may change quickly.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/29/2008

Canada Geese - 5000

Snow Geese - 60,000

Ducks - 135,000

Swans - 200

**William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI**  
11/12/2008 11:41 AM

To Waterfowl Migration Group  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/12/2008

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/12/2008**

**Canada Geese - 4500**

**Snow Geese - 130,000**

**Ducks - 150,000**

**Swans - 170**

More waterfowl moved into northern Brown County with the storm that passed through the area last Thursday night and Friday. We only received about an inch of snow, but most of the wetlands froze over on Saturday night, including the lakes on Sand Lake Refuge. These wetlands are still mostly frozen over, but some small, open water areas are expanding with the warmer weather the last couple of days.

Most of the mallards on the refuge are concentrated in Sand Lake. There are also good numbers of mallards on Putney Slough. These birds are feeding in surrounding picked corn fields.

There are currently over 300,000 snow geese in northern Brown County. They are feeding heavily in picked corn fields in the Sand Lake and Putney Slough areas. Good numbers of snow geese are also being reported in the Scatterwood Lakes area.

The tundra swans are currently found in northern Sand Lake.

The corn harvest continues to lag with the wet weather. Approximately one half of the corn in the area is still standing in the field.

**Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/5/2008**

**Canada Geese - 5700**

**Snow Geese - 75,000**

**Ducks - 140,000**

**Swans - 260**

William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI  
11/17/2008 03:55 PM

To Waterfowl Migration Group  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/18/2008

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/18/2008

Canada Geese - 4000

Snow Geese - 120,000

Ducks - 55,000

Swans - 25

It appears that the peak of the waterfowl migration in this area occurred last Thursday and Friday.

Snow goose numbers peaked on Sand Lake at 200,000 last Thursday, but there are still good numbers of snow geese in the Brown County area. They are feeding in picked corn fields in the Sand Lake and Putney Slough areas. Scatterwood Lake is still reported to be holding some snow geese.

There are still good numbers of mallards on Putney Slough. These birds are feeding in surrounding picked corn fields.

Most of Sand Lake opened back up over the weekend, although much of it was frozen over again this morning. Most of Mud Lake remains ice-covered. The majority of waterfowl using the refuge are currently in northern Sand Lake.

The corn harvest in the area is approximately 2/3 complete. Farmers should make good progress with the harvest this week.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/12/2008

Canada Geese - 4500

Snow Geese - 130,000

Ducks - 150,000

Swans - 170

William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI  
11/25/2008 02:42 PM

To  
. cc  
bcc  
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/25/2008 -  
Last report of the season

#### Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/25/2008

Canada Geese - 3000

Snow Geese - 9000

Ducks - 5000

Swans - 0

The waterfowl migration appears to be pretty well over for this fall. Waterfowl numbers have dropped steadily since last week. The lakes are frozen over except for the river channel between Mud Lake Dike and State Highway 10, and two small, open-water areas in northern Sand Lake.

Snow goose numbers on the refuge dropped from 35,000 on Sunday to the 9000 observed today.

The corn harvest in the area is probably over 90% complete.

#### Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/18/2008

Canada Geese - 4000

Snow Geese - 120,000

Ducks - 55,000

Swans - 25

It appears that the peak of the waterfowl migration in this area occurred last Thursday and Friday.

Snow goose numbers peaked on Sand Lake at 200,000 last Thursday, but there are still good numbers of snow geese in the Brown County area. They are feeding in picked corn fields in the Sand Lake and Putney Slough areas. Scatterwood Lake is still reported to be holding some snow geese.