

William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI  
09/30/2009 08:08 AM

To Waterfowl Migration Group  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 9/29/2009

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 9/29/2009

Canada Geese - 800

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 10,000

Swans - 0

Although waterfowl numbers on Sand Lake are relatively low for this time of year, there are good numbers of Canada geese and ducks using wetlands in the surrounding area. Northern Brown County is extremely wet and overall wetland conditions are excellent.

Most of the ducks on the refuge are in northern Sand Lake. The majority of the ducks are made up of shovelers, blue-winged teal, and gadwalls, with a few mallards, pintails and ring-necked ducks.

No tundra swans have been observed on the refuge, but several were seen in the area last week.

The soybean harvest is just beginning in the area.

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

William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI  
10/07/2009 11:16 AM

To  
cc  
bcc

Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/7/2009

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/7/2009

Canada Geese - 1000

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 17,000

Swans - 4

Although waterfowl numbers on Sand Lake are still relatively low for this time of year, there are good numbers of Canada geese and ducks using wetlands in the surrounding area. Northern Brown County is extremely wet and overall wetland conditions are excellent. It appears that we lost some blue-winged teal over the past week, and picked up some more mallards in the area.

On the refuge, there were noticeable increases of shovelers and lesser scaup. The majority of the ducks on the refuge are made up of shovelers, gadwalls, lesser scaup, mallards and pintails.

The first tundra swans on the refuge were observed today.

The soybean harvest was just beginning last week, but is at a standstill because of the recent rains. We received over 2.5 inches of rain at the refuge since last week.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 9/29/2009

Canada Geese - 800

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 10,000

Swans - 0

Although waterfowl numbers on Sand Lake are relatively low for this time of year, there are good numbers of Canada geese and ducks using wetlands in the surrounding area. Northern Brown County is extremely wet and overall wetland conditions are excellent.

Most of the ducks on the refuge are in northern Sand Lake. The majority of the ducks are made

William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI  
10/14/2009 03:15 PM

To  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/14/2009

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/14/2009

Canada Geese - 1200

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 23,000

Swans - 130

Waterfowl numbers continue to increase, especially in the wetlands in the surrounding area. Northern Brown County is extremely wet and overall wetland conditions are excellent. Shovelers and gadwalls make up most of the ducks on the refuge, with small increases in mallards and pintails. Several small flocks of white-fronted geese were seen on the refuge yesterday.

Most of the swans on the refuge are near the south end.

Crop harvest in the area continues to be at a stand-still, due to the rain and snow we had during the past week.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/7/2009

Canada Geese - 1000

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 17,000

Swans - 4

Although waterfowl numbers on Sand Lake are still relatively low for this time of year, there are good numbers of Canada geese and ducks using wetlands in the surrounding area. Northern Brown County is extremely wet and overall wetland conditions are excellent. It appears that we lost some blue-winged teal over the past week, and picked up some more mallards in the area.

On the refuge, there were noticeable increases of shovelers and lesser scaup. The majority of the ducks on the refuge are made up of shovelers, gadwalls, lesser scaup, mallards and pintails.

William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI  
10/20/2009 12:51 PM

To  
cc  
bcc

Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/20/2009

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/20/2009

Canada Geese - 1000

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 20,000

Swans - 530

Waterfowl numbers on the refuge actually dropped a little from last week, although waterfowl numbers in the area around the refuge are excellent. Northern Brown County continues to be extremely wet. Shovelers, gadwalls, ruddy ducks and lesser scaup make up most of the ducks currently on the refuge.

Most of the swans on the refuge are near the south end and in an area about 1 mile south of State Highway 10.

A few soybean fields were harvested in the area over the weekend, but the majority of crops are still in the field.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/14/2009

Canada Geese - 1200

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 23,000

Swans - 130

Waterfowl numbers continue to increase, especially in the wetlands in the surrounding area. Northern Brown County is extremely wet and overall wetland conditions are excellent. Shovelers and gadwalls make up most of the ducks on the refuge, with small increases in mallards and pintails. Several small flocks of white-fronted geese were seen on the refuge yesterday.

Most of the swans on the refuge are near the south end.

William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI  
10/27/2009 04:28 PM

To  
cc  
bcc

Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/27/2009

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/27/2009

Canada Geese - 1000

Snow Geese - 1200

Ducks - 20,000

Swans - 500

Waterfowl numbers on the refuge remained relatively stable from last week. The first snow geese were observed on the refuge on Monday, and white-fronted geese were seen migrating. More lesser scaup have moved into the refuge during the week.

Most of the swans on the refuge are in the same areas as last week, which was near the south end and in an area about 1 mile south of State Highway 10.

Some soybeans and a few small fields of corn have been harvested in the area during the last couple of days, but there are still alot of standing crops in the fields.

Good waterfowl numbers are still being seen throughout northern Brown County, with the excellent wetland conditions.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/20/2009

Canada Geese - 1000

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 20,000

Swans - 530

Waterfowl numbers on the refuge actually dropped a little from last week, although waterfowl numbers in the area around the refuge are excellent. Northern Brown County continues to be extremely wet. Shovelers, gadwalls, ruddy ducks and lesser scaup make up most of the ducks

**William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI**  
11/04/2009 10:12 AM

To Allen Olson/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, Donald  
Soderlund/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, Jay  
Peterson/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, Marcia  
cc

bcc

Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/3/2009

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/3/2009

Canada Geese - 800

Snow Geese - 20,000

Ducks - 38,000

Swans - 300

More ducks and snow geese moved into Sand Lake and the area over the past weekend. Snow geese are being seen regularly on the refuge and in the area. Several thousand have been reported in the Scatterwood Lakes area and in the area south of Groton. Mallard numbers have increased significantly on the refuge.

The tundra swans on the refuge are near the south end and in an area about 1 mile south of State Highway 10. There are also many swans using wetlands throughout northern Brown County.

Farmers are continuing with the soybean harvest, and a few small fields of corn have also been harvested in the area.

Good waterfowl numbers are still being seen throughout northern Brown County, with the excellent wetland conditions.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/27/2009

Canada Geese - 1000

Snow Geese - 1200

Ducks - 20,000

Swans - 500

William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI  
11/10/2009 01:26 PM

To Waterfowl Migration Group  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/10/2009

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/10/2009

Canada Geese - 800

Snow Geese - 42,000

Ducks - 30,000

Swans - 350

More snow geese have moved into the Sand Lake area this past week. Besides Sand Lake, there currently are snow geese on Putney Slough, using an area near the James River along Highway 12, and also in an area south of Groton. There are several hundred thousand snow geese total between these areas. Some wetlands in Brown County continue to hold many ducks, but they are shifting around between wetlands throughout the area.

The tundra swans on the refuge remain in the same areas, which are near the south end and in an area about 1 mile south of State Highway 10. Swans are still using some wetlands throughout northern Brown County.

Farmers are making good progress on the soybean harvest, and a few more fields of corn have been harvested in the area since last week.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/3/2009

Canada Geese - 800

Snow Geese - 20,000

Ducks - 38,000

Swans - 300

More ducks and snow geese moved into Sand Lake and the area over the past weekend. Snow geese are being seen regularly on the refuge and in the area. Several thousand have been reported in the Scatterwood Lakes area and in the area south of Groton. Mallard numbers have increased significantly on the refuge.

William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI  
11/18/2009 08:27 AM

To  
cc  
bcc

Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/17/2009

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/17/2009

Canada Geese - 1600

Snow Geese - 185,000

Ducks - 48,000

Swans - 450

Snow geese continued to move into the Sand Lake area this past week. There are several hundred thousand snow geese using Putney Slough and snow geese are also being reported on Scatterwood Lakes, southwest of Aberdeen. Some of the smaller wetlands throughout Brown County are freezing up overnight, but are thawing during the day. Some of these wetlands continue to hold many ducks.

The tundra swans on the refuge remain in the same areas, which are near the south end and in an area about 1 mile south of State Highway 10. Swans are still using some wetlands throughout northern Brown County.

The weather during the past week has been good for the harvest. The soybean harvest is nearing completion, and the corn harvest is getting into full swing.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/10/2009

Canada Geese - 800

Snow Geese - 42,000

Ducks - 30,000

Swans - 350

More snow geese have moved into the Sand Lake area this past week. Besides Sand Lake, there currently are snow geese on Putney Slough, using an area near the James River along Highway 12, and also in an area south of Groton. There are several hundred thousand snow geese total between these areas. Some wetlands in Brown County continue to hold many ducks, but they are

William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI  
11/24/2009 03:15 PM

To  
cc  
bcc

Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/24/2009

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/24/2009

Canada Geese - 3000

Snow Geese - 200,000

Ducks - 72,000

Swans - 800

Snow goose numbers remain high in the Brown County area. Good numbers of snow geese are still using Putney Slough and Scatterwood Lakes. Good numbers of snow geese were also observed in the Lake Byron area in Beadle County.

Wetlands in the area surrounding the refuge are beginning to freeze over, but are still holding good numbers of ducks. Lows in the teens predicted for later this week may freeze over many of these wetlands.

Tundra swans are now using both Mud Lake and Sand Lake.

Alot of corn was harvested in the area this past week.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/17/2009

Canada Geese - 1600

Snow Geese - 185,000

Ducks - 48,000

Swans - 450

Snow geese continued to move into the Sand Lake area this past week. There are several hundred thousand snow geese using Putney Slough and snow geese are also being reported on Scatterwood Lakes, southwest of Aberdeen. Some of the smaller wetlands throughout Brown County are freezing up overnight, but are thawing during the day. Some of these wetlands continue to hold many ducks.

William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI  
12/02/2009 10:56 AM

To  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 12/2/2009

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 12/2/2009

Canada Geese - 2200

Snow Geese - 100,000

Ducks - 40,000

Swans - 900

The pools on Sand Lake have been iced over the last two mornings. They opened back up with the wind yesterday, but it looks like they may remain iced over today. There are still some small, open-water areas remaining. Lows are predicted in the low teens tonight, and into the single digits the next few nights.

Snow goose numbers began to drop on Sand Lake the last two days. This morning, there were two main flocks remaining: one feeding just west of the refuge, and one feeding just into North Dakota.

Most of the smaller wetlands in the area surrounding the refuge are frozen over, but mallards are still using some of them in the soybean and corn fields.

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

The corn harvest is continuing in the area. There are still quite a few fields of standing corn.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/24/2009

Canada Geese - 3000

Snow Geese - 200,000

Ducks - 72,000

Swans - 800

Snow goose numbers remain high in the Brown County area. Good numbers of snow geese are still using Putney Slough and Scatterwood Lakes. Good numbers of snow geese were also

William  
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI  
12/08/2009 03:52 PM

To Waterfowl Migration Group  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 12/8/2009 -  
Last Report

#### Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 12/8/2009

Canada Geese - 1400

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 8000

Swans - 0

The refuge pools have been frozen over since last Wednesday. The remaining Canada geese and ducks are keeping a small area of water open in Sand Lake. There is also some remaining open water near the water control structures and bridges. Most of the snow geese left the refuge area last Thursday, but some small flocks continued to move through the area this past week.

#### Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 12/2/2009

Canada Geese - 2200

Snow Geese - 100,000

Ducks - 40,000

Swans - 900

The pools on Sand Lake have been iced over the last two mornings. They opened back up with the wind yesterday, but it looks like they may remain iced over today. There are still some small, open-water areas remaining. Lows are predicted in the low teens tonight, and into the single digits the next few nights.

Snow goose numbers began to drop on Sand Lake the last two days. This morning, there were two main flocks remaining: one feeding just west of the refuge, and one feeding just into North Dakota.

Most of the smaller wetlands in the area surrounding the refuge are frozen over, but mallards are still using some of them in the soybean and corn fields.