

Lower Oahe Waterfowl Access Areas 2017-18 Waterfowl Report

For the Week of January 8, 2018

WALK-IN AREAS

There were no hunter reports from the walk-in area fields this week.

REGISTRATION AREA

After last week's report the weather began to warm and the birds started to move out to feed earlier in the day. Last week's aerial survey showed most of the birds sitting in the Pierre area however by the weekend the birds had started to spread back out with several flocks moving back to the open water on Lake Oahe. The harvest cards that were returned from the registration fields showed that the hunters were having good success late last week and through the weekend. There are no aerial surveys scheduled at this time unless there is a significant change noticed in the population currently in the area.

PASS-SHOOTING AREAS

After the birds started to spread back out from the Pierre area reports of pass shooters doing well came in from several areas.

SOLID AND STRIPED GREEN AREAS

The striped green area in Stanley County continues to have hunters setting out decoys and doing well. With the warmer temperatures the birds started moving earlier with some reports of birds flying several miles west of Ft. Pierre. Hunters are reminded to be considerate of those already in the field when arriving and leaving. The designated access trails in this area is allowed for dropping off and picking up equipment only. The solid green areas west of 1804 in the Cow and Okobojo Creek area slowed down some with a few hunters out setting up decoys in the fields, however there are no reports on success. Reports from this past weekend came in of a few more birds around the striped and solid green area east of Grey Goose Road. No reports on if any hunters were in the fields or of any success.

SUMMARY

The warmer weather last week helped to get the birds coming out to feed earlier in the day. Reports from hunters are that some days they had just finished setting decoys and would see birds in the air. No aerial surveys are scheduled at this time unless there is a significant change noticed in the population currently in the area.

The 28th annual youth goose hunt took place this past weekend, the birds and the weather cooperated for everyone this year making this year's event for the youth and parents that attended one they will have a hard time forgetting. The birds started flying early in the morning and came into their decoy spreads as close to perfect as anyone could ask for. There were several first time waterfowl hunters again this year who were able to harvest their first goose ever. All of the helpers in the fields for the event commented on how impressed they were on how safely these young boys and girls handled their shotgun not to mention how well they shot and how polite they were.

A Beginner's Goose Hunt will taking place this year on January 20-21 2018. This event is open to any beginner goose hunter; besides hunting they will be covering several topics throughout the weekend. Space is limited. For more information about this event contact Maggie Lindsey, Education Services Coordinator at 605-223-7667.