

Lower Oahe Waterfowl Access Areas 2017-18 Waterfowl Report

For the Week of January 22, 2018

WALK-IN AREAS

Reports continued to come in late last week and into the weekend of several flocks of geese around the walk-in fields. There have been a few groups setting out decoys in one of the walk in fields with reports of birds being harvested from them. The birds coming up over the walk-in fields west of Okobojo Creek have been flying low giving the pass shooters some great opportunities along with reports of some flocks sitting in the corn fields.

REGISTRATION AREA

The decoy-only registration fields have continued to see good numbers of groups using the area with the weekends being busier than weekdays. Reports coming in last week and over the weekend were of several groups doing well while others had to work more to get the birds into the decoys. The warmer weather has them moving much earlier than last week when the temperatures were colder.

PASS-SHOOTING AREAS

No reports from the pits or canal areas on pass-shooting success however there were a couple of reports that the birds going over the walk-in fields west of Okobojo Creek had several flocks flying through and landing in the fields giving the pass shooters the opportunity to harvest some.

SOLID AND STRIPED GREEN AREAS

The striped green area in Stanley County continues to have a few flocks sitting in the fields; reports from the hunters are that the birds have moved around some in the field along with the areas they are coming off of the water from. 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 continues to have a few groups setting up decoys in the fields especially during the weekends, there were a couple reports of success during the week but no reports from the weekend. There are no reports from the striped and solid green area east of Grey Goose Road.

SUMMARY

The warmer weather has helped to spread the birds out giving hunters more options and opportunities. Walk-in area fields North and West of Okobojo Creek have continued to have good numbers of birds in and around them late last week and into the weekend. The decoy-only registration fields have continued to be busy especially on the weekends with a few less groups coming out during the weekdays. Hunters have been reporting back on good success in most areas. There are no hunter reports from the pass-shooting pits or canal areas. The striped green area in Stanley County has been good most days with a few flocks sitting in the fields over the weekend, however there were no reports from hunters on success. The solid green areas in the Okobojo Creek area had a few groups setting out decoys with reports coming in on success during the week but no reports over the weekend. No reports from the solid and striped green areas east of Grey Goose Road.

With no significant change in the total number of geese in the Pierre and Lower Oahe areas since the last flight on January 2nd there are no aerial waterfowl surveys scheduled at this time.