

Lower Oahe Waterfowl Access Areas 2017-18 Waterfowl Report

For the Week of December 04, 2017

WALK-IN AREAS

There were no reports on if they birds continued to go into the walk-in areas or success this past week from the walk-in area fields. Reports that did come in from the area were that the warm weather did have the birds moving around. With the colder temperatures that have moved in this week maybe the birds will start to be easier to get a pattern on.

REGISTRATION AREA

The decoy only registration fields continue to see hunters reporting back on mixed success. The birds started coming off of the water in the mornings in the mornings late last week however it has been hard to get a pattern on where they will go each day, the birds leaving the water in the evening started coming out a little earlier over the weekend. The colder temperatures will hopefully get them coming out to feed on a regular basis. Upland game hunting remains open in several areas, however hunters are reminded to watch for the signs designating the area as open or closed along with any waterfowl hunters that are in the field. Reminder to all hunters the access trails going into fields are for registered decoy hunters to get to their field only. These trails are not to be traveled by upland game hunters or waterfowl hunters out scouting.

PASS-SHOOTING AREAS

Pass shooting opportunities in the canal in the Okobojo Creek area or the pits along Spring Creek and Nystrom Bay have been tough for most days other than the windy ones since most of the birds sitting on the lake have been coming out rather high.

SOLID AND STRIPED GREEN AREAS

The striped green area in Stanley County slowed down some last week; however there have been reports of some hunters in smaller groups doing well when the birds decide to fly a little further west of the river. 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 have continued to have some of the birds that are sitting in the Cow and Okobojo Creek checking the fields out, with a couple of groups of hunters setting out decoys last week and weekend, however there were no reports on success. The striped and solid green area east of Grey Goose Road has not seen much for waterfowl traffic.

SUMMARY

The aerial waterfowl survey scheduled for this week will be conducted if the weather permits. A lot depends on if the weather predictions of high winds and low visibility for the remainder of the week are correct. As soon as staff can safely fly at the low elevations needed to conduct the survey the results will be posted on the website.

Last week's report was that there were a few flocks of geese sitting in and flying over a couple of walk-in area fields with a few pass shooters doing well as the birds moved from field to field. However there have not been any recent reports on birds in these areas or success. The decoy-only registration fields have continued to have hunters reporting back on mixed success depending on where the birds decide to fly each day. Reports from the striped green area in Stanley County are that some hunters did well last week when the birds moved further west of the river. Hunters wanting to give the decoy only registration fields a try that do not have decoys can reserve one of the three decoy loaner trailers. These trailers are free of charge to reserve and use. You can reserve one of the trailers by going to the links below the link for this report and selecting one of them. This will take you to a doodle page where you will select the date you would like to reserve a trailer and typing your first and last name along with a phone number. The 28th Annual Youth Goose Hunt will be on January 5-7 2018 information can be found to the left of the link to this report.