

Cass Co. Cons. Bd
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Trumpeter Swans in Cass County!

Currently about forty Trumpeter Swans are over-wintering at Schildberg Recreation Area- Lake 4. One of them is collared with Iowa's red color and 9K7. We also have had our highest EVER recorded number of Trumpeter Swans on 12/5/14 at 72!!! Before this our record was 58 in one day. 12/5/14 was a VERY foggy morning. Even still on New Year's Eve we had 53 swans. The swans official date of arrival is November 11th. Our swan Contest winner is Pansie Hoffman!

- 9K7, is a 2006 hatch year male from Cass County (Blaine Behnken), released at Lake Anita on 4-4-2007. This is his first report at the Schildberg Rec. Area Lake 4. Other Reports: 4/ 4/ 2007 Lake Anita
Cass IA. 11 / 7 / 2008 Hwy 3 & 71 Pond NE Storm Lake Buena Vista IA.
3/5/2013 W of Emmetsburg Palo Alto IA

People Making a Difference...

Thank you to everyone that took part in our **Lighted Halloween Campground!** Especially to our volunteers and **Cappel's Ace Hardware, and Robinsons True Value** for the Prizes. Donations to the event by **3 Bee Farms, and Hy-vee!** Thank you to everyone who took part in the **Green Home Products** workshop... Especially to **Complementary Care** as a sponsor!!

E-Newsletter!

Save a tree, email Lora at lkanning@casscoia.us and let her know to add your email to get the email/PDF version of the Conservation Quarterly!

Cass County Conservation on Facebook!

Search Cass County Conservation and "like" us on Facebook! Easy way to keep up on events and wildlife sightings around Cass County!

Camping Coupons

We have camping coupons/certificates available here at the office. These are only \$12 each, good for only Cold Springs Campground, electric hookup or Non-electric camping. They make great gifts!

Cass County Conservation Board Members
Phil Przychodzin- Massena
Bob Muldoon- Atlantic
Duane Curtis- Cumberland
Luanne Steffens- Griswold
Jerry Hudson- Lewis

Great Backyard Bird Count

The National Audubon Society & Cornell Lab of Ornithology needs every bird enthusiast in North America to count birds February 13th-16th. All you need is a basic knowledge of bird identification! This activity is extremely easy...you watch the birds in your yard, local park, or other natural area for 15 minutes or more and use a tally sheet to record the highest number of individual birds that you see in view at one time. There are two ways to participate in the bird count, 1. Call the Conservation Board at 712-769-2372 and we will send you everything you need or (you may pick it up in our office) 2. You can visit the Great Backyard Bird Count website at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc> and submit your results from there. This is a great family event and the data collected will be used by scientists to analyze bird populations. If you are new to the count please see the Upcoming Programs on the next page. Since 2002 the Cass County Conservation Board has advertised this bird count throughout the county encouraging citizens to participate. Last year Cass County Birders were 3rd in the State... Cass County was once again very well represented in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)! We have a new leader: Johnson County 132 checklists and 50 species. Dallas County (Adel) had 2nd place again this year with 102 checklists, with Des Moines at our heels with 87

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checklists! Species count Scott county had the most at 55 but only 50 checklists. With the new eBird system the record keeping is by county so I can not really tell you anymore the species reported for each town, but Cass county as a whole. Iowa as a whole had 102 species reported and 1,199 checklists! United States reported 644 species and 118,949 checklists. Typically participants submit their checklists on the internet, however, for those that are not comfortable using computers, the Conservation Board collects the data and enters the checklists for them. The Conservation Board also visits the Atlantic High School each year to encourage students to participate in the count. Congratulations Cass County on a wonderful response!

Cass County Results

Town	# of Checklists Submitted	38 Species Reported total
Anita	4	
Atlantic	82	
Cumberland	1	
Griswold	1	
Lewis	0	
Marne	7	
Massena	3	
Wiota	0	

More results: Only 7 Ring-necked Pheasants individuals were counted in Cass County, the most at one time was 15 in Black Hawk County. 100 Bald Eagle individuals were counted at one time in Scott County.

Tallgrass Prairie Exhibit Coming to Nishna Bend

A traveling exhibit all about the Tallgrass Prairie will be coming to Nishna Bend Recreation Area's Nature Learning Center beginning in January. Tallgrass Prairies – Past, Present and Future was developed by Iowa Association of Naturalists. The exhibit was made possible with funding from REAP-CEP (Resource Enhancement and Protection – Conservation Education Program), Pheasants Forever Inc. & Iowa Pheasants Forever Native Seed Program, Iowa Trust for Local Conservation, Living Roadway Trust Fund, Tallgrass Prairie Center – UNI, and Truax Company. This exhibit has been traveling across the state of Iowa for the past few years. The exhibit is made up of informational panels and many hands-on elements to teach about the tallgrass prairie in Iowa. Here in Cass County we currently do not have a large space for us to use to house an exhibit like this, we encourage our residents to get up and see it while it is so close to us!!

The Shelby County Conservation Board will be picking the exhibit up on January 8 and it will remain at the nature center until April 2. The nature center will have special hours while the exhibit is on display. We are tentatively planning on having the nature center open on Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. from January 10 to March 29. We will also be hosting a special program on Sunday, January 25 at 7:00 p.m. lead by Roger

Schwery of Custom Seed Services. Custom Seed Services does a lot of work restoring native plants and harvesting local eco-type seed to help restore these plants. He will be coming to speak how prairie plants and seeds react to the winter. He is also planning on involving attendees by having them help with some seed cleaning. Following the program everybody is invited to his facility in Panama to see how the whole seed cleaning process is done. If you have any questions about the exhibit feel free to contact the Shelby County Conservation Board at 712-744-3403. Nishna Bend Recreation Area is located one mile south and one mile east of Corley (Harlan Airport).

Upcoming Events



Denotes an Oak Stroller approved event! All Cass County Programs are FREE unless otherwise stated! Donations for programs are accepted.



Moonlight Snowshoe Hike

Saturday February 7th 7 PM

Pellett Memorial Woods, Atlantic, IA

We will bring our snowshoes for you to try on! If the sky is clear, the moonlight will light our way!



Great Backyard Bird Count—See Page 2 for more details!!

February 13-16th

Saturday February 14th 1:00 PM

Atlantic Public Library Community Room

Learn how to be involved in a great citizen science project! We will show and explain how to participate in the project. We will also include some tips on identifying birds.



Polar Bear Winter Day Camp

For youth in Kindergarten thru 2nd grade.

February 13 at 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m.— 4:00 p.m.

February 16 at 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Please register by February 4 to attend this day camp.



Adventure Winter Day Camp

For youth in 3rd-5th grades.

March 12th 9AM-4:30PM

Please register by March 5th. Students will learn about winter camping and Leave No Trace principles.

All camps are held at the Atlantic Community Building, FREE. Forms can be found at the quick links section at www.extension.iastate.edu/cass/. Register early, space is limited. Please contact Cass County Extension at 243-1132 for questions

Mark your Calendars

Cass County's Pheasant's Forever Chapter Banquet

Saturday, April 11th

Cass County Community Center, Atlantic

Doors open at 5pm Contact Rick Kanning at 249-2517 for more information.

Wildflower Walk

Saturday, April 25th- 9AM

Pellett Memorial Woods

Stay tuned for more on the April programs and Summer Camp Listings in the Spring Newsletter