

Conservation Quarterly

Cass County Conservation Board

WINTER 2011/2012



Trumpeter Swans in Cass County

Forty Trumpeter Swans were over-wintering at the Schildberg Quarry in northwest Atlantic on 1/7/12. Three of them are marked (with red or green collars), making it possible to keep track of their travels. All three of the marked swans have previously over-wintered at Schildberg Quarry. Our highest number of swans for the year is 40, see the above date. Other wintering sites are FULL, like Beemer's pond West of Webster City, IA has over 175 Trumpeter Swans on 12/29/11. The LAST handful of 5th annual Soiree with the Swans long sleeved t-shirts are still for sale, Marked down XL \$10 and 2XL/3XL are \$10, Stop up at our office and pick one up TODAY!! The swans arrival was Nov 17th.

5C5 is a male from West Bend, IA. He has been coming to the Schildberg quarry for seven winters now. He has stuck around all this year, compared to last year he was only here for November.

5H5, a male of Blaine Behnken's captive pair, after being released at Lake Anita on 4/6/05. He has been here for six winters now in Atlantic, IA, their nest site is unknown.

6H9, is a female 6H9 and 5H5 hatched at least 5 cygnets in both 2007 and 2008. Their nest location is unknown. This year you'll notice they have 6 cygnets!!

Our Swan Contest winner Rick Kanning (November 17!) and for the School Contest Mrs. Christensen's 3rd grade class at Washington Elementary had the earliest date!

Great Backyard Bird Count

The National Audubon Society & Cornell Lab of Ornithology needs every bird enthusiast in North America to count birds February 17th-20th. 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 we had a strong second place behind Adel at 102, but out of the top three we had the most number of species. We were not the highest number of species recorded by a town overall but a strong showing! Congratulations Cass County on a wonderful response! Check out the next page as well to see our county results.

Continued on Page 2



Great Backyard Bird Count Cont.



2011 Cass County Results ...

<u>Town</u>	<u># of Checklists Submitted</u>	<u># of Species Reported</u>
Anita	2	16
Atlantic	77 (2nd place)	47
Cumberland	5	6
Griswold	4	8
Lewis	4	12
Exira	2	12
Massena	1	14
Wiota	5	14

We also have a Snowy Owl that is ready for taxidermy. Please contact our office if you would like help support this project as a memorial. Total estimate for this project is \$400.00.

Upcoming Programs



Relax on a Windstar Bus as you head to Kearney, Nebraska to view 500,000 Sandhill Cranes congregated on the Platte River, one of the most spectacular wildlife happenings that can be witnessed anywhere. Additional points of interest will be the ROWE Nature Center, Great Platte River Road Archway Monument, Funk Lagoon and Taylor Ranch for Prairie Chicken viewing. Call now to join Cass, Audubon/Shelby, Harrison, Carroll, and Crawford County Conservation Boards for the two-day journey **March 25th and March 26th**. **Registrations for this trip will be accepted until February 17th. Cost of the trip is \$175.00 includes: transportation, lodging, entrance fee for Archway and Nature Center and Crane blind fee at Rowe Sanctuary. Does not include meals.** Please call 712-769-2372 today to have a registration form and detailed information sent directly to you! OR you can attend one of our **Information Nights: February 1st at 6 PM at the Atlantic Public Library Community Room OR February 13th 6 PM Rock Island Depot Community Room.** We are also partnering with the West Pottawattamie Soil & Water Conservation District and Iowa Western Community College. We are bringing continuing education classes on Rain Gardens, Native Landscaping, and Rain Water Harvesting to the Atlantic Campus of IWCC. To Register for these classes please do so through the Atlantic Campus or this link: <http://www.iwcc.edu/ce/classes/GoGreen.asp> .



Sandhill Crane Bus Trip Information Night—See Page 2 for more details!!

Wednesday February 1st 6 PM

Atlantic Public Library Community Room

OR

Monday February 13th 6 PM

Rock Island Depot Atlantic, IA

Great Backyard Bird Count—See Page 1 for more details!!

Saturday February 11th 1:30 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.



Sandhill Crane Bus Trip

Sunday March 25-26

Kearney, NE

See page 2 for more information

Rain Gardens/ Native Landscaping

Tuesday March 27th 5:30 PM

Iowa Western Community College, Atlantic, IA

Free but must Pre-register by calling Atlantic IWCC or <http://www.iwcc.edu/ce/classes/GoGreen.asp>

Kick off earth week RIGHT HERE!

Rain Barrel Workshop

Saturday April 14th 9 AM- Noon

Iowa Western Community College Atlantic, IA

\$40 suggested donation to build a barrel.

Please pre-register by calling Atlantic IWCC or this link <http://www.iwcc.edu/ce/classes/GoGreen.asp>.



Other Upcoming Events



Pheasant's Forever Chapter Banquet

Saturday, February 25th

Cass County Community Center, Atlantic

Doors open at 5pm Contact Matt Dollison at 249-4795 for more information.

Wildflower Walk

Saturday, April 28th- 9AM

Pellett Memorial Woods

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



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The Gift of Time

Thank you to everyone that took part in the Natural Holiday Decorating workshop...

Especially to Brink's Flower and Gift as a sponsor!!

Thank you to everyone that took part in the Bird House Workshop...

Especially to Rick Kanning, and Micah Lee.

People Making a Difference:

- Thanks to Turkey Creek Longbeards for supporting turkey education programs at the schools!
- Thank you to Ken Lawton for supplying the food for the Trumpeter Swans!
- A special thank you to Bob Voggesser for feeding the swans and reporting information to the Conservation Board!
- Thank you to everyone that made a donation at the Soiree with the Swans program.
- *Thank you to everyone that took part in the Soiree with the Swans...*

Especially to Schildberg Construction, Iowa DNR, Cass County Conservation Board Members, Hy-vee, Atlantic News Telegraph, Atlantic Park and Recreation dept, Behnken Family, and KJAN for their donations of time or talent!!

★ **Cass County Conservation Board** ★
★
★ Phil Rink- Griswold ★
★ Bob Muldoon- Atlantic ★
★ Duane Curtis- Cumberland ★
★ Ken Lawton- Lewis ★
★ John Curry- Massena ★
★
★ **Staff** ★
★ Micah Lee- Director ★
★ Lora Schwendinger- Naturalist ★
★ Ryan Lockwood- Park Superintendent ★
★*****