

Conservation Quarterly



Cass County Conservation Board
Fall 2011



Fall is here!

By Micah Lee

Fall is officially here! As the leaves begin to change and the temperatures are dropping this may be one of the best times of year to visit one of the Cass County Conservation Board areas.

Camping this time of year is wonderful with the cool temps and the parks generally don't get too full this time of year so you can have great camping trip and more than likely have the pick of the park to get your favorite spot.

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Trumpeter Swan Contest



Trumpeter Swans have visited the Schildberg Quarry for, at least, Thirteen out of the last fourteen winters. Most Trumpeter Swans migrate farther south for the winter in search of open water and food. Because of the depth of Atlantic's Schildberg Quarry, and the large number of wading waterfowl, it remains open year round, making it possible for the swans to stay. Only one injury last year, to a cygnets leg, it was taken to SOAR to recover, it was released near the end of the spring migration. Last season we had an average of 28 visit, and the most on one day was 42! Arrival and departure dates of the Trumpeter Swans have been as follows:

1997/1998	December – January	2003/2004	November 26—March 21
1998/1999	Nothing on record	2004/2005	November 25—March 18
1999/2000	December 25 – February 15	2005/2006	November 17—March 5
2000/2001	November 23 – March 6	2006/2007	October 30—March 9
2001/2002	December 25—February 24	2007/2008	November 22— February 14
2002/2003	November 23—March 15	2008/2009	November 18— March 12
2009/2010	November 19– January	2010/2011	November 5th– February 10

The Cass County Conservation Board is asking you...When do you think the first Trumpeter Swan will arrive at the Schildberg Quarry? Please call in your prediction (beginning October 1st) to the Conservation Board at 712-769-2372, leave a message and return phone number if we are not in. Duplicate dates will not be allowed. For example, if a caller predicts November 25th, no one else will be allowed to predict that arrival date. **So, call anytime during the month of October until November 11th to make your prediction!** One prediction per family, please. The sponsors of this contest will determine the official arrival of the swans. The winner will receive a Trumpeter Swan 8x10 Print from the Cass County Conservation Board. This contest is strictly for residents of Cass County.



Fall Cont.

The fish will really start biting again as they begin to put on weight for the up coming winter, and like the camping in our parks, there should be no problems running into to many other fisherman so you should have your pick of the best spots on the water.

Hunting seasons have already begun; dove season is well underway (the first dove season in Iowa history) as well as squirrel and rabbit seasons are currently open. Archery deer season opens up soon (October 1, as well as fall turkey season (October 10). At the end of October pheasant and quail season opens up as well.

It is also just a wonderful time to get out to one of our areas and do some bird watching, fall migrations have begun, and were are seeing more waterfowl at our parks. Wildlife is becoming more visible as well, as the crops start to come out.

So I just encourage everyone to get out and enjoy one of our parks. If you just enjoy a nice quite walk, camping, hunting/fishing, or watching wildlife, give us a call if you have any questions we'd be happy to give you some ideas for a wonderful day or weekend at one of our parks!

Wanted:

We are looking for a memorial donation, to mount a Red Fox in our possession. The mounting of the Fox will approximately cost \$750.00. Anyone interested please call 712-769-2372 and ask for Lora, or email lschwendinger@casscoia.us for more information!



Kid's Korner

Fun Activities for Your Children

Match the eyes on the left to the proper animal.

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



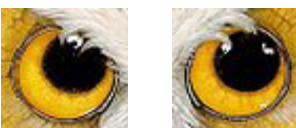
6.



7.



8.



OWL

HEDGEHOG

MOUSE

RABBIT

MOLE

FOX

GOOSE

CAT

21st Halloween Hike

We are excited to announce Wild Eyes in the Night Halloween Hike! It is NEVER too late to volunteer! So much goes into this event and we have a great foundation of volunteers that help EVERY year! This event is a great NON-SCARY, Family Friendly, FREE hike into the night!

Please help us make it a success!

We are in need of:

- ◆ **Actors**
- ◆ **Tour Guides**
- ◆ **Face Painters**
- ◆ **Treat Makers**

Call our office ASAP to get involved! 712-769-2372!



Upcoming Events

Halloween Hike

Wild Eyes in the Night

Saturday, October 22nd

Sunnyside Park, Camblin Addition, Atlantic

7:00 PM—Last group departs at 8:10 PM

Join us on a non-scary hike where you will meet some Wild Eyes in the Night!

After the hike enjoy tasty treats, warm drinks and bonfire! **MUST CALL FOR YOUR FREE RESERVATIONS AT 712-769-2372.** Leave your name, # of people in your group, Phone # and time you wish to depart on you hike.



Bird House Workshop

Sunday November 20th at 1 PM

Outdoor Educational Classroom, Massena

Learn all about making bird houses! Make and take a bird house home for a suggested donation! Fun for all ages, children must be accompanied by adult. Suggested donations for House Wren house \$5, and Kestrel house \$8. Pre-registration is requested by November 16th call 769-2372!

Natural Holiday Decorating

Saturday, December 3rd 1 PM

Atlantic Public Library Community Room

Back by popular demand, make and take home keepsakes. New crafts, decorate with nature, and all skill levels welcome! FREE, Pre-register by November 30th call 769-2372.

Soiree with the Swans

Saturday, January 7, 2012 at

Schildberg Recreation Area 11:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m. in case of no swans or bad weather it will be held at the **Atlantic Public Library Community Room 12:00-1:00 p.m.**

Presentations will be every half hour with the last presentation will be at 2 p.m.

All Cass County Programs are FREE unless otherwise stated! Donations for programs are accepted.

Don't forget the Great Backyard Bird Count in February 2012!

E- Newsletter!

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

**Cass Co. Cons. Bd.
57744 Lewis Rd.
Lewis, Iowa 51544**

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Kid's Korner Answer:

- 8. OWL
- 5. HEDGEHOG
- 7. MOUSE
- 4. RABBIT
- 6. MOLE
- 1. FOX
- 3. GOOSE
- 2. CAT

Thank you for your time and donations!

Thank you to **Barb Chase** for your assistance with the *Conservation Quarterly* newsletter mailings!

A continued thanks to **Donna Rourick** for maintaining our county's bluebird boxes!

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