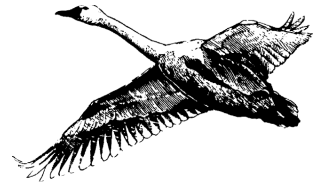


Conservation Quarterly

Cass County Conservation Board

WINTER 2010/2011



Wonderful Winter

By: Micah Lee

As we move further into this winter I will encourage you all to keep visiting our Cass County Conservation areas. There are a lot of great winter activities that can be done on our areas. Of course there are still hunting seasons open, such as antlerless deer season through the 30th of January. As of this writing there are 567 antlerless deer tags available for Cass County. There are also quail, partridge, and squirrel seasons ending on the 31st. Cottontail rabbit season runs through February 28th and is the last season to close. If you plan on hunting any of these later seasons remember you need to buy a new hunting license as last years license expired on the 10th of January.

Other great activities to enjoy are cross country skiing, snowshoeing, (if we get more snow?) and ice fishing. If you plan on ice fishing always be sure to check ice conditions before venturing to far out on the ice. If fishing alone consider tying on a safety rope to something solid on shore. Don't be afraid to get outside and enjoy our parks this winter!

Trumpeter Swans in Cass County

Thirty Trumpeter Swans were over-wintering at the Schildberg Quarry in northwest Atlantic on 1/3/11. 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 was 42 which was on 12/5/10 and on the 17th of Dec!! On 12/8/10 a cygnet was taken to S.O.A.R for a leg injury. At this time she is healing well and we hope she will be returned the end of January. S.O.A.R is a wildlife rehabilitation center near Dedham, IA. Other wintering sites are FULL, like Beemer's pond West of Webster City, IA had 162 Trumpeter Swans on 12/19/10. LAST handful of 5th annual Soiree with the Swans long sleeved t-shirts still for sale, XL \$12 and 2XL/3XL are \$14, Stop up at our office and pick one up TODAY!! The swans arrival was Nov 5th, the earliest EVER for Atlantic!

5C5 is a male from West Bend, IA. In Jan 2008 when the quarry pond froze over, they moved on to Hamilton County, IA but the only sightings for 2008 are the Schildberg quarry. His mate 3C3, was not seen here this winter, and 5C5 has already left Atlantic.

7C4 (619-35439) is a female, 2003 wild MN (just SW of Blue Earth) hatch, and is the offspring of 2F7 and J43. She was banded in Atlantic on 1/22/04. 7C4 has returned to Atlantic for the seventh winter. We believe that she is paired with an unmarked adult whom is here at the quarry as well. She only has a band on her leg.

5H5, a male of Blaine Behnken's captive pair, after being released at Lake Anita on 4/6/05. The only 2008 sighting of him was here at 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.

Our Swan Contest winner Debbie Leistad (November 14!) 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 18th-21st. 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.



2010 Results



Since 2002 the Cass County Conservation Board has advertised this bird count throughout the county encouraging citizens to participate. Last year it was a tight race between 2nd-3rd with a checklist difference of only 4! Congratulations Cass County on a wonderful response!

Cass County Results ...

<u>Town</u>	<u># of Checklists Submitted</u>	<u># of Species Reported</u>
Anita	2	20
Atlantic	69 (2nd place)	33
Marne	6	15
Griswold	7	23
Lewis	4	20
Exira	1	10
Massena	4	16
Wiota	4	12

Wish List

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 our office. We also would like to build a bigger enclosure for our turtle, Fancy. This could be a boy scout or 4-H project. We will provide the materials, YOU provide the TALENT!

Other Items:

Acorns & Pine cones- larger the better! (We use these for programs every year)

2 clipboards

15 Tablecloth Clips

Earmuffs in good condition

FULL sized top sheets White or off White in color.

1 Digital Photo frame (one that scrolls pictures off of an SD card.)



712-769-2372

Upcoming Programs

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

Saturday February 12th 1 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.



Learn How to Snowshoe

Saturday, February 12th— 3 PM

Sunnyside Park, Atlantic Center Shelter #2

Come out for lesson on snowshoeing! Snowshoes will be available! Dress for the weather!

Best of all FREE! **Please pre-register by calling 712-769-2372, we only have 20 adult snowshoes.**



Pheasant's Forever Chapter Banquet

Saturday, February 19th

Cass County Community Center, Atlantic

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

Spring Fling

Saturday March 12th, 11 AM—2 PM

Outdoor Educational Classroom

Programs will be on Turtles, and Wildlife success stories. Pack a lunch there will be an hour to eat and explore the Outdoor Classroom! Family friendly event, Free, and educational!



Other Upcoming Events



Kick off earth week RIGHT HERE!

Rain Barrel Workshop

Saturday April 16th 9 AM– Noon

Cocklin Fish Farm Shelter

\$40 suggested donation to build a barrel.

Please pre-register by calling 712-769-2372.

Wildflower Walk

Saturday, April 30th- 9AM

Pellett Memorial Woods

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

E– Newsletter!

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

