

Cass Co. Cons. Bd  
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## People Making a Difference...

Thank you to everyone that took part in our **Halloween Hike!**

Especially to our volunteers and donations to the event by **3 Bee Farms, McCurdy Pumpkins, and Hy-vee!**

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

Especially to **Brinks Flower and Gift** as a sponsor!!

## E-Newsletter!

Save a tree, email Lora at [lkanning@casscoia.us](mailto: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  
Rich Govig- Lewis  
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 12th-15th. 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 lagged behind in the State...but all county numbers were low last year. Dallas County has 102 checklists, Johnson County 78 and Polk had 73. We only had 31 checklists. Compare to 2014: 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 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 91 species reported and 791 checklists which is 400 LESS than 2014! United States reported 671 species and 108,000 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. Let's get out there this year get back in the top 3!!

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Upcoming Events

Under Construction

## Cass County Results

Town	# of Checklists Submitted	28 Species Reported total
Anita	3	
Atlantic	25	
Cumberland	0	
Griswold	1	
Lewis	0	
Marne	1	
Massena	1	
Wiota	0	

More results: We had over 28 species counted in Cass County. Northern Cardinal was the most popular on our lists and as whole in the count! Most individuals counted was Snow goose edging out the Canada Goose.

## Trumpeter Swans in Cass County!

Currently about forty Trumpeter Swans are over-wintering at Schildberg Recreation Area- Lake 4. We haven't had any collared swans yet this year. We've have had our highest EVER recorded number of Trumpeter Swans on 1/1/16 at 79!!! Before this our record was 72 in one day. Our new swan flappers will be installed on the lines inbetween Lake 4 and 3 by the railroad tracks. The swans official date of arrival is November 22nd. Our swan Contest winner is Todd Rocker!

## Sandhill Crane Bus Trip

The Cass, Crawford, and Shelby County Conservation Boards are offering a guided tour out to Kearney, Nebraska April 3-4. We will be taking a Windstar bus. We will make stops at the Great Platte River Road Archway Monument, Rowe Sanctuary (to view the cranes), Nebraska Nature and Visitor Center and lots of other opportunities for bird viewing. The cost for the trip is \$185 includes: transportation, lodging, entrance fee for Archway, Nature Center, and Crane blind fee at Rowe Sanctuary. Does not include meals. If you have any questions about trip or would like more information please call Lora at (712) 769-2372 or email lkanning@casscoia.us . Informational programs will be held: February 15th 7PM at the Anita Public Library, and February 16th 6PM at the Rock Island Depot (Chamber)Atlantic. Deadline for deposit: February 19th.

## Under Construction Everywhere it seems!

Our Cass County Conservation Board offices got an outside facelift last year. We are now starting the inside remodel new walls, new HVAC, and new display area. If you come down and visit us before April excuse our mess!! Also going on inside Cold Springs Park, our last section of electric campground sites will be upgraded to 50 amp service! We will be leveling some of the sites so becareful on our new grass! This project is funded partially by our Cass County Community Foundation dollars at work! The last thing under construction is our website! We still have our my county parks pages but we have switched over to our new Cass County website. Cass County as a whole joined a partnership with Atlantic Area Chamber, and CADCO to venture into a website all together in one spot! The website is <http://www.atlanticiowa.com/county/county-departments/conservation-office/> . Or if you get to [www.atlanticiowa.com](http://www.atlanticiowa.com) click on county in the top bar, county departments then Conservation. Slowly everything is getting fixed on both sites so bear with us!

## Upcoming Events



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

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

February 12-15th



Saturday February 13th 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.



### Owl Prowl Hike

Saturday February 13th 7:30 PM

Pellett Memorial Woods, Atlantic, IA

Drive the short drive and hike off that dinner! We will hike and try to call in various species of Owls that may be in the park that night!

### Sandhill Crane Bus Trip Information Night

February 15th 7PM

Anita Public Library

February 16th 6PM

Rock Island Depot (Chamber) Atlantic

Come out to learn more about attending our bus trip to see the sandhill cranes! Full details on the opposite page.



### Nature Detectives Winter Day Camp

For youth in 3rd-5th grades.

March 24th or March 28th 9AM-4:30PM

Please register by March 16th. Students will learn about wildlife and animal signs.

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/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/cass/). Register early, space is limited. Please contact Cass County Extension at 243-1132 for questions

### Sandhill Crane Trip

April 3-4th

Kearney, NE

Checkout the information on the opposite page!

## Mark your Calendars

Cass County's Pheasant's Forever Chapter Banquet

Saturday, February 27th

Cass County Community Center, Atlantic

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



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.