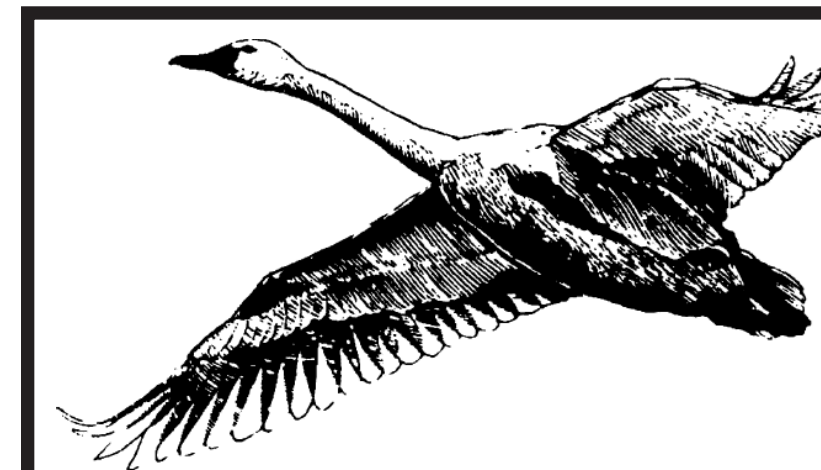


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# Conservation Quarterly Cass County Conservation Board Winter 2016-2017



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## Mark your Calendars

Cass County's Pheasant's Forever Chapter Banquet  
Saturday, February 25th

Cass County Community Center, Atlantic  
Doors open at 5pm Contact Rick Kanning at 249-2517 for more information.

Wildflower Walk  
Saturday, April 29th- 9AM  
Pellett Memorial Woods

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

## People Making a Difference...

Thank you to everyone that took part in our **Lighted Halloween Campground!**  
Especially to our volunteers and donations to the event by  
**Cappels Ace Hardware, and Cass County Parents as Teachers!**

## 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 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://gbbc.birdcount.org/> 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. We only had 28 checklists. We ended up holding on to the 10th place, in terms of checklists. Dallas County (Adel) had 1st place this year with 101 checklists, with Johnson county at their heels with 87 checklists! Linn county was 3rd, Woodbury county was 4th, and Polk fell to 6th with 52 checklists. We were the ONLY top ten county with less than 50,000 in population! I think we can double our number and secure a top 5 showing in 2017! 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 971 checklists which is back closer to our Iowa average! United States reported 676 species and 118,000 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 5!!

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Winter Park Update

## Cass County Results

Town	# of Checklists Submitted	34 Species Reported total
Anita	4	
Atlantic	19	
Cumberland	1	
Griswold	2	
Lewis	1	
Marne	1	
Massena	0	
Wiota	0	

More results: We had over 34 species counted in Cass County. Most individuals counted was the Canada Goose, and we had 44 trumpeter swans over that weekend.

## Bumper Crop of Trumpeter Swans in Cass County!

At the time of this printing, we had 150 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 12/28/16 at 150!!! Before this our record was 79 in one day. The swan's official date of arrival was November 19th. Our swan Contest winner is Jane Kite! The school contest was won by Mrs. Haynes's three year old Morning Preschool at Jack and Jill Preschool!

## Meet Cass County's Farm Bill Biologist

My name is Jason Andersen and I am a Farm Bill Biologist with Pheasants Forever serving Audubon, Shelby, and Cass Counties. I work in a partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, as well as local Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Pheasants Forever Chapters. The purpose of my position is to work with area farmers and landowners to plan and implement conservation practices that promote wildlife habitat while also controlling soil erosion and improving water quality. I am very passionate about wildlife conservation in Iowa and I am more than happy to speak with you about the issues that you face on your land. I am based out of the Audubon NRCS Field Office and can be reached at (712) 563-4248 extension 3, or by email at [jandersen@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:jandersen@pheasantsforever.org).

## Winter Park Update!

Inside Cold Springs Park, our last section of electric campground sites was upgraded to 50 amp service! Also, be careful on our new grass this spring! One of the many winter projects we always work on is tree removal. We look for hazard trees and invasive species. Keep a look out for us in any of our parks! Our Environmental Education department added binoculars this year, we look forward to using them at the upcoming Soiree with the Swans! This project was funded by our Cass County Community Foundation dollars at work! We utilized Cass County's new Vortex Optics dealer, McCunn Specialty Firearms!

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

# Upcoming Events



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

### Full Moon Owl Prowl Hike

Friday February 10th 7:00 PM



Cold Springs Park, Lewis, 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!

### Great Backyard Bird Count—See Page 1&2 for more details!! February 17-20th



Saturday February 11th 1:00 PM

Atlantic Public Library Community Room

Get ready 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.

### Sweetheart Snowshoe Hike

Saturday February 11th 7PM

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! Will be cancelled if not enough snow.

### Leprechaun Geocache Hunt

Saturday March 18th 1PM- 4PM

Sunnyside Park- Kiddie Corale, Atlantic, IA



Meet at 1pm to obtain your leprechaun locations, complete the to find all of the hidden locations (geocaches) and return to the shelter for your "pot o' gold!" This hunt will require driving, all locations are within the Atlantic zip code but not within walking distance. A limited number of GPS units will be available to checkout for the event. All ages/abilities welcome, please call to reserve a GPS unit if needed, and Free!

## Winter Day Camps

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

### Penguin Winter Day Camp

For youth in Kdg- 2nd grades.

March 24th 9AM-Noon or 1PM-4PM Atlantic Community Building- Atlantic School District

April 17th 9AM-Noon Atlantic Community Building- CAM and Griswold Districts

Please register by March 17th (Atlantic) or April 10th (CAM and Griswold). Students will learn about all about Penguins.

### Snow Adventure Winter Day Camp

For youth in 3rd-5th grades.

February 17th 9AM-4PM Lewis Activity Center

February 20th 9AM-4PM Anita Community Building

March 3rd 9AM-4PM - Atlantic Community Building

Please register by February 10th. Students will learn about snow, winter animals, and winter recreation.