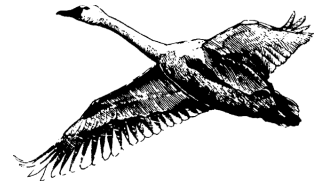


Conservation Quarterly

Cass County Conservation Board

WINTER 2013/2014



Trumpeter Swans in Cass County

Thirty-eight Trumpeter Swans were over-wintering at the Schildberg Quarry in northwest Atlantic on 12/3/13. Two of them are marked (with red or green collars), making it possible to keep track of their travels. Both of the marked swans have previously over-wintered at Schildberg Quarry. Our highest number of swans for the year is 39 on 11/24/13. The swans arrival was Nov 12th.

5C5 is a male from West Bend, IA. He has been coming to the Schildberg quarry for nine winters now.

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

Our Swan Contest winner Jean Granger with the earliest date (November 18!)

Blast from the Past

Since it is a special birthday this year (#55 if you were not counting) we thought it would be fantastic to go back to our 2nd ever Winter Newsletter, and here's what I found! B.Y.O.M. Bring Your Own Mug. To help reduce our solid waste generation at our programs. If you see BYOM in the description, feel free to bring your own mug or to send your child with their own mug to the programs. Even though now in 2013 we use compostable cups at our programs, I think this is a brilliant idea! Even if we only do this for half of our public programs where we serve drinks it makes a difference!

Local Food Survey

The Cass County Local Food Policy Council (CCLFPC) is dedicated to bringing community members and organizations together to promote stable food systems and access to healthy, locally produced food for all Cass County residents.

In order to better accomplish our mission, we would like to know more about your views on local food, farmer's markets, and what matters most to you as a producer. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey below.

www.casscountyllocalfood.weebly.com

Click on the **Community Member Survey** if you are Cass County resident that eats and buys local food, and/or the **Producer Survey** if you raise or grow food and sell in Cass County or surrounding counties.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts on local food in Cass County! We appreciate your time & feedback!

Great Backyard Bird Count

The National Audubon Society & Cornell Lab of Ornithology needs every bird enthusiast in North America to count birds February 14th-17th. 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. Since 2002 the Cass County Conservation Board has advertised this bird count throughout the county encouraging citizens to participate. This year was the first year Cornell Lab of Ornithology changed how the Great Backyard Bird Count results were shown through eBird. We can't tell what the other towns had for the number of checklists. **We can tell you Cass County Birders had a strong showing in the State...** We had 99 checklists, Dallas County (Adel) had 89 checklists. We beat Dallas County also on the number of species reported we had 54, they only had 36. Iowa as a state beat their old checklist record this year, we had 1,317 checklists submitted. Congratulations Cass County on a wonderful response!

2013 Cass County Results ...

<u>Town</u>	<u># of Checklists Submitted</u>
Anita	2
Atlantic	79
Cumberland	5
Griswold	1
Lewis	0
Marne	6
Massena	2
Wiota	4

Sandhill Crane Bus Trip

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, Funk Lagoon and Taylor Ranch for Prairie Chicken viewing. Call now to join Cass, Audubon/Shelby, Carroll, and Crawford County Conservation Boards for the two-day journey **March 20th and March 21st. Registrations for this trip will be accepted until February 17th. Cost of the trip is not finalized but will be near \$175.00/per person includes: transportation, lodging, entrance fees for 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 **Informational Programs: January 27th at 6 PM at the Anita Public Library Community Room OR February 15th 1 PM Atlantic Public Library Community Room.**


Oak Strollers Nature Club sponsored by Cass County Conservation. Join us for monthly events to guide your family outdoors! Events will be for all ages. Some events may be public Cass County Conservation and some may occur during the day when school is in. The nature club led by Naturalist, Lora Kanning gives parents the comfort of exploring nature in Cass County. We'd like to foster an environment where families can bond together as they play, talk and learn in nature. All events are for the purpose of getting families involved in activities outside. **Bring your child and plan to stay and have a great time-making a memory.**

Upcoming Programs

 Denotes an Oak Stroller approved event!

Soiree with the Swans

January 4th 2014

 **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. **BYOM!!!**

Sandhill Crane Bus Tour Informational Program –See Page 2 for more info.

Monday January 27th 6 PM

Anita Public Library

OR

Sandhill Crane Bus Tour Informational Program– See Page 2 for more info.


Saturday February 15th 1 PM

Atlantic Public Library

Moonlight Snowshoe Hike

Saturday February 15th 8 PM

Pellett Memorial Woods, Atlantic, IA

 If the sky is clear, the moonlight will light our way! We will also try to call in various species of Owls that may be in the park that night!



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

February 14-17th

Antler Scoring Workshop

Saturday March 8th 1PM

Outdoor Educational Classroom, Massena, IA

Learn how to do Deer antler scoring. Even if your antlers are from this last season they should be dry enough to score.



Sandhill Crane Bus Trip

Thursday, Friday March 20-21

Kearney, NE—Cost to be determined.

See page 2 for more information

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



Other Upcoming Events



Cass County's Pheasant's Forever Chapter Banquet

Saturday, February 22nd

Cass County Community Center, Atlantic

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

Wildflower Walk

Saturday, April 26th- 9AM

Pellett Memorial Woods

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



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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 Christmas gifts!

E– Newsletter!

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

The Gift of Time

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

Especially to our volunteers and [3 Bee Farms](#), and [McCurdy Pumpkins](#) for your donations to the event!

Thank you to everyone that took part in the Natural Holiday

Decorating workshop...

Especially to [Brink’s Flower and Gift](#) as a sponsor!!

People Making a Difference:

- A special thank you to [Bob Voggesser](#) for feeding the swans and reporting information to the Conservation Board!

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