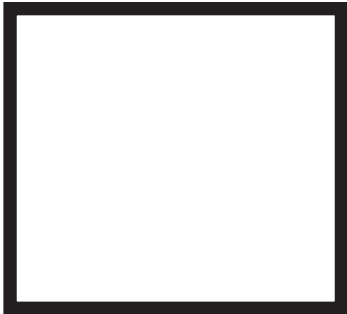



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# Conservation Quarterly Cass County Conservation Board Fall 2021



## 26th Halloween Hike

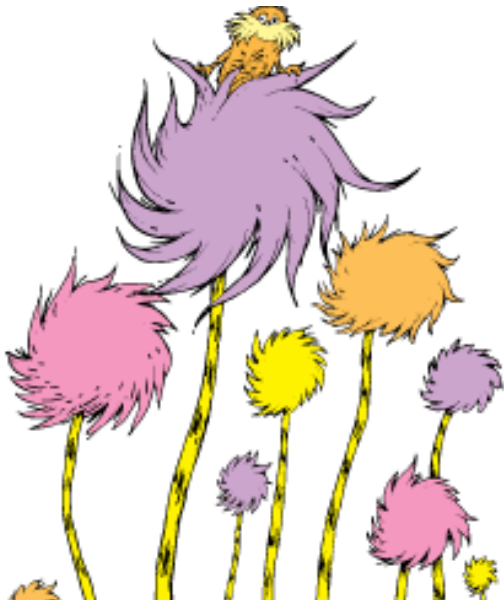
We are excited to announce The “Lorax” Halloween Hike! It is NEVER too late to volunteer! So much goes into this event and we have a great foundation of volunteers that help EVERY year! This event is a great NON-SCARY, Family Friendly, FREE hike into the night! Please help us make it a success!

We are in need of:

- Actors
- Tour Guides
- Treat Makers

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

Also, Check out the event in the upcoming events section for more information!



## People Making a Difference...

A continued thanks to **Dean Downer and Robin Loring** for being our Caretakers of Outdoor Educational Classroom and Hitchcock House respectively!  
Thank you to **SOAR**, for coming and doing a raptors program for Breakfast with the birds!  
Thank you to **Jerry Hudson** for his many years of work and dedication on our Cass County Conservation Board!

## E- Newsletter!

We are all digital newsletter, 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 & Pinterest!

Search Cass County Conservation and “like” us on Facebook! Easy way to keep up on events and wildlife sightings around Cass County! Get creative with us on Pinterest as @casscountyiacon.

### Cass County Conservation Board Members

- Phil Pryzchodzin- Massena
- Rich Govig- Lewis
- Judy Kennedy- Atlantic
- Luanne Steffens- Griswold
- James Stokley- Anita

## Building Better Birders Workshop

Our final Building Better Birders program will be a two day workshop format! Friday night November 19th will start with Waterfowl ID at 5pm (you can bring your dinner with you) and at 7pm Owl Prowl starts. We will hike and try to call in various species of Owls that may be in the park that night! Saturday starts at 8am with Sparrow ID with a birding hike to follow at 10am. 11am our very own SW Iowa Bluebird group will do a presentation! Break at noon for a catered lunch for \$10 in support of our Friends of the Outdoor Classroom. At 1pm our final program on Christmas Bird Count Marathon will conclude our workshop.

These programs will be conducted by Kelly McKay (BioEco Research and Monitoring Center), with assistance from Mark Roberts (Clinton County Conservation) and Brian Ritter (Nahant Marsh Education Center). Funding for this workshop was provided by the Resource Enhancement and Protection – Conservation Education Program (REAP – CEP). Come for one program or all. We are asking for your preregistration for Saturday so we know attendance for Lunch! We look forward to seeing everyone for the final weekend.

### In this Issue:

Upcoming Events

Swan Contest/Recap

## Swan Contest

Trumpeter Swans have visited the Schildberg Quarry for, at least, twenty-two out of the last twenty-three 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. Arrival and departure dates of the swans have been as follows:

1997/1998 December 18 – January 2	1998/1999 Nothing on record
1999/2000 December 25 – February 15	2000/2001 November 23 – March 6
2001/2002 December 25 – February 24	2002/2003 November 23 – March 15
2003/2004 November 26 - March 21	2004/2005 November 25 – March 18
2005/2006 November 17 – March 5	2006/2007 October 30 – March 9
2007/2008 November 22- February 14	2008/2009 November 18- March 12
2009/2010 November 19 - January 5	2010/2011 November 5 – February 10
2011/2012 November 17 – February 21	2012/2013 November 24– March 4
2013/2014 November 12- April 7	2014/2015 November 11- April 6
2015/2016 November 22- March 24	2016/2017 November 19- March 9
2017/2018 November 9- March 20	2018/2019 November 11- January 23
2019/2020 November 8- March 3	2020/2021 November 30- February 13

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 (by November 11th) 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 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. **Sorry, this contest is only for residents of Cass County.**

## Trumpeter Swan Recap and Summer happenings

Our unmarked Trumpeter Swans returned to Massena again this year. The pair started out with six cygnets but they lost 1 by July. We had a very odd winter at Schildberg Recreation Area in 2020/2021 we had an average of 70 visit. Swans came late- November 30 and as mentioned the average was lower for the winter. We just were not the popular hangout spot! The swans disappeared from the Lake by February 13, so it was the first Great Backyard Bird count in 3 years with NO swans reported for Atlantic! Cold springs campground has seen some upgrades this year, mainly to our playground inside the campground. Pictures are on the interior pages. We are also still growing grass along the edges of our new asphalt roads. We've also been finishing our storage space and display area in the front of our offices.



## Acorn Explorers



The "Acorn Explorers" are public programs that are monthly in person and with virtual options available. These programs are targeted for 5th grade and younger doing at-home learning. FREE and all on Thursdays! Please pre-register for the February/ March dates, if filled we will add another time slot. October 14th 2pm- Batty for Bats- Cold

Springs Park Campground shelter- Virtual available, November 18th 2pm- Terrific Turkeys- Hitchcock House Barn- virtual available, January 13th 2pm- Trumpeter Swan- Schildberg Rec. Area Lake 4- virtual available, \*February 10th 2pm- Great Backyard Bird Count- Outdoor Educational Classroom virtual available Massena- Follow Hwy 148 South of Massena, turn Left onto Tucson Rd for 1 1/2 mile the park will be on your right. \*March 17th 2pm Turtles- Outdoor Educational Classroom (maybe recorded for virtual), April 14th 2pm Signs of Spring- Cold Springs Park (maybe recorded for virtual) Please pre-register if you plan on attending virtually so that the zoom link can be sent to you! Pre-register by emailing [lkanning@casscoia.us](mailto:lkanning@casscoia.us) or calling 712-769-2372.

## Upcoming Events



Denotes an Oak Stroller approved event!  
**Dutch Oven Cooking- Breakfast**  
**Lake Anita Non-electric Campground**

**October 9th 9am-11am**

Learn how to make three dishes in a dutch oven! Please bring your own place setting for samples. Free will donation for supplies will be accepted. You DO NOT have to be a registered camper to attend the program!



**Mentored Youth Pheasant Hunt October 23rd**  
**Meet at Atlantic Hy-Vee parking lot 7:45am**

The Cass County Pheasants Forever Chapter will be offering a mentored youth hunt on opening day of youth pheasant season on OCTOBER 23rd (RAIN DATE OCTOBER 24TH). This is open to youth 11-15 years old who have successfully completed the hunter safety education. This is a FREE event to allow young hunters the opportunity to take part in a safe and successful pheasant hunt. GROUP SIZE IS LIMITED TO FIRST 12 YOUTH THAT REGISTER. MUST PRE-REGISTER WITH BECKY DREAGER 712-249-5130.



**Halloween Hike**  
**The Lorax**  
**Saturday, October 30th**  
**Sunnyside Park, Camblin Addition, Atlantic**

**7:00 PM—Last group departs at 8:20 PM**

You will follow a trail where you will hear the story of "The Lorax" along the way! It is not our intent to scare or frighten anyone, but to educate and entertain people of all ages! 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 your hike.





# Upcoming Events Cont.

## **Building a Better Birder Workshop**

**Outdoor Educational Classroom, Massena**

**Friday November 19th 5-9PM**

**Saturday November 20th at 8 AM-3PM**

Details on page 1! Kelly McKay, will be leading Identification of Birds programs throughout this two day event. These programs will be conducted by Kelly McKay (BioEco Research and Monitoring Center), with assistance from Mark Roberts (Clinton County Conservation) and Brian Ritter (Nahant Marsh Education Center). Funding for this workshop was provided by the Resource Enhancement and Protection – Conservation Education Program (REAP – CEP). Pre-registration is requested by November 15th call 769-2372!

## **Christmas Bird Count**

**Cass County**

**Sunday, December 19th 8am-4:30pm**

Those that want to participate in the count will be meeting at Cold Springs State Park in Lewis at 8:00am to divide into groups that will cover different sections of the count circle. Birders are encouraged to dress for the conditions and bring along binoculars and bird books. The count will run until 4:30pm that day as we cover a 15 mile diameter circle as thorough as we can. We will meet for lunch at Noon at the Atlantic Pizza Ranch to compare lists and reboot for counting in the afternoon. You are welcome to join for the whole day or just the morning or afternoon sessions.



## **Soiree with the Swans**

**Saturday, January 8, 2021 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.

We are planning to do our Cabin Fever escape again in Late January. Don't forget the Great Backyard Bird Count in February 2022!

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







Our annual fishing derby winners were awarded for the most overall weight: 1st Tobin Juhl ( left ) , 2nd : Morrison Sandbothe(2nd from left), 3rd : Traven Thomas (4th from left). Awards also given for heaviest single fish: Dayton Thomas (3rd from left), longest single fish: Morrison Sandbothe ( 2nd from left ) , and shortest single fish: Christian Bullington (Right).



Trumpeter swan release held at Lake Anita State Park earlier this year. Gwen Black pictured above with a Trumpeter Swan!

Our first round of prizes for our 120hr outdoor challenge! Emma B. was our first winner reaching our May check in, Michelle A was our September check in, Debbie S. was our 60 hr check in winner, and lastly our children drawing winner was Jacob R.

