

Cass Co. Cons. Bd
57744 Lewis Rd
Lewis, IA 51544

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People Making a Difference...

A continued thanks to **Robin Loring** for being our Caretaker of the Hitchcock House!
Thank you to the following support of **Cappel's Ace Hardware, Scheels and Weirich Welding** to our annual Kids Fishing Derby in June.
Thank you to **Cassie Wendl of SOAR**, for coming and doing her raptors program for Breakfast with the Birds!
Thank you to **Nishna Valley Trails members** for their continuing support and partnership at our trail events over this year!

E- Newsletter!

Save a tree, We are all digital newsletter, email Lora at 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 Social Media!

Search Cass County Conservation and "like" us on Facebook or follow on Instagram! Easy way to keep up on events and wildlife sightings around Cass County! Get creative with us on Pinterest as @casscountyiakon Or watch us on our YouTube Channel!

Cass County Conservation Board Members

Blaine Behnken- Massena
Rich Govig- Lewis
Judy Kennedy- Atlantic
Mark Smith- Atlantic
Sandra Sothman- Atlantic



Swan Contest

Trumpeter Swans have visited the Schildberg Quarry for, at least, twenty-seven out of the last twenty-eight 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
2021/2022 November 22- February 28	2022/2023 November 22- February 22
2023/2024 December 2- January 30	2024/2025 December 1- February 24

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.

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Continued from front page... 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.

Fireside Fair

We are excited to announce our Fireside Fair event inside the Cold Springs Campground, Saturday October 25th. Come and go from 1 to 5pm, fall crafts, treats, and try out our Crack the Code trail inside the campground. This event is a great NON-SCARY, Family Friendly, FREE! Please help us make it a success! Also, Check out the event in the upcoming events section for more information!

Trumpeter Swan Recap

Our unmarked Trumpeter Swans returned to Massena again this year. The pair started out looking promising but by the end of July they were unsuccessful in hatching a family. We had a lower than average winter count at Schildberg Recreation Area in 2024/2025 we had an average of 34 visit. We have only had high of 56 at one time. After Jaunary 15th the swans averaged through the rest of their time, at about 30 swans until they left on February 24th.

Fall happenings

In my opinion the most wonderful time of year is upon us here in Southwest Iowa. Fall brings a lot of outstanding outdoor opportunities for us here in Cass County. The corn and bean fields have all turned, we're seeing some leaves begin to change as well, acorns are dropping, and hunting seasons are open as well. Rabbit and squirrel seasons are currently open, as well as dove season. The archery deer and archery fall turkey seasons opened on the 1st of October. So there will be activity in our public hunting areas from now until January 10 when hunting seasons are closed for the year. So be aware if you plan to utilize these areas for anything. It's never a bad idea to wear blaze orange if you're out during the hunting seasons. The youth/disabled deer season has come and gone, and I hope was successful for all those that ventured out. The early muzzleloader deer season will be the next one to open up followed by fall turkey season, pheasant and quail season, as well as the south zone waterfowl season. Trapping and furbearer seasons will open on November 1st. Then as we move into December the shotgun and late muzzleloader deer seasons will open as well. Please understand that these types of users will be out in our parks. As far as fall fishing goes, we are in a bit of a transition period here at the Cass County Conservation Board. The lake at Cold Springs is drawn down for a DNR renovation project and will not offer any fishing this fall. The pond at the Outdoor Classroom is still in the early stages of its renovation recovery, fishing is available there though fish size may still be on the smaller size as the fish continue to grow. The best option would be the pond at the Nodaway Wildlife area; it has a good population of nice bluegill and a lot catchable bass. We take reservations for our Outdoor Educational Classroom Lodge for meetings and events through the winter as we do keep it plowed. Please

contact the office if you are interested in reserving. Snow will be coming! Again this year we have cross country skis to check out. You must know your shoe size in European sizing. Cross Country Skis and Snowshoes are available for checkout here at our offices! Check in and out must be within our office hours! Link will be live after thanksgiving to sign up at our website: <https://www.casscountyia.gov/county-departments/conservation-office/> I have 5 pairs of snowshoes that fit children 90 lbs. and below. I have 25 pairs fit children/adults weighing up to 175 lbs. and 3 pairs for adults/children over 175 lbs. In conclusion we hope to see you out utilizing the areas for your outdoor adventures, and as always be safe and leave it better than you found it.



Denotes an Oak Stroller approved event!

Upcoming Events



Fireside Fair
Saturday, October 25th
Cold Springs Park, Campground Shelter, Lewis 1:00 PM— 5:00 PM

A come and go free family-friendly event with fall crafts, treats and a crack the code trail. You will follow a trail where you will crack the code at every stop, leading to a final challenge.



Bat House Building
Outdoor Educational Classroom
Saturday November 22nd 11am

Come build a small bat house or purchase a kit. Suggested donation \$15. All ages welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult.

Call 769-2372 or email to sign up lkanning@casscoia.us

Please pre-register by November 17th.

Nature Journaling

Saturday November 22nd 1pm Free Will donation

Outdoor Educational Classroom, Massena We will look at the topic of nature journaling and techniques we can use. We will make our own nature journal to use and take home.

Christmas Bird Count

Cass County Sunday December 21 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 3, 2026 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.

Cabin Fever Escape

Saturday, January 24th 1-4PM

Outdoor Educational Classroom, Massena

Got Cabin Fever? Cure it by spending time outdoors (sledding, and snowshoes) with family friendly activities! If you get cold, warm tasty drinks and a movie will be playing inside the shelter!

