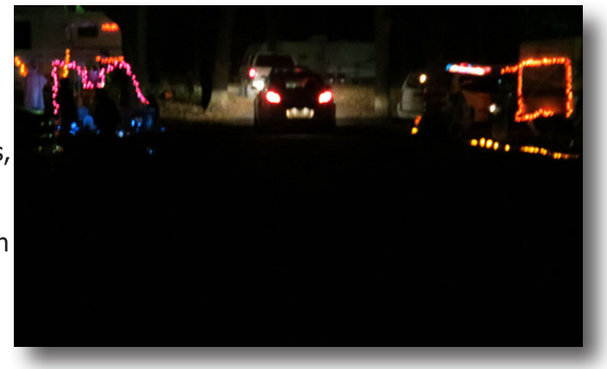
Cass Co. Cons. Bd
57744 Lewis Rd
Lewis, IA 51544

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Conservation Quarterly
Cass County Conservation Board
Fall 2026

9th Biennial Lighted Halloween Campground



This event is a great non-scary, Family Friendly, FREE, drive into the night! Prizes will be for the top 3 voted sites, and for some special categories. Call to volunteer to help that night, or call to sign up for a site to decorate! If you sign up to decorate a site, Saturday night of camping is on us!! Saturday October 24th at Cold Springs Park in Lewis 7-9 PM. Deadline for decorating a site sign up is October 16th and the groups will have Saturday(24th) from Noon on to decorate. Please help us make it a success! You do get Saturday night camping for FREE. (if you choose to camp- not required) You DO NOT have to have a camper (we've seen some great sites done with tents and easy-ups etc) Message, call, or email us, with Name, email and Phone number! Call the Cass County Conservation Office to get involved @712-769-2372! The event will be cancelled if there is inclement weather. Please enter the park through the campground entrance.

Swans and Fall continued...

Fall is also a great time to do some fishing, not as many people take advantage of fall fishing but it can be a great time, as fish are actively feeding for the upcoming winter and there generally isn't as much competition from other anglers as there is in the spring and summer. The Cold Springs Lake has been restocked this past year after doing a lot of renovation work on the pond and we will be working on the lake vegetation come spring. We look forward to some great fishing hopefully in 2027. We take reservations for our Outdoor Educational Classroom Lodge for meetings and events through the winter as we do keep it plowed. We hope to see you out enjoying our parks this fall!

People Making a Difference...

Thank you to **Cassie Wendl of SOAR**, for coming and doing her raptors program for Breakfast with the Birds!
A continued thanks to **Robin Loring** for being our Caretaker of the Hitchcock House!
Thank you to **Nishna Valley Trails** members for their continuing support and partnership at our trail events over this year!

Cass County Conservation Board Members

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

Winter Recreation Checkout

Snow will be coming! Snowshoes and cross country skis are available for checkout here at our offices! Check in and out must be within our office hours! Link to sign up is found 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.

Trumpter Swan Contest

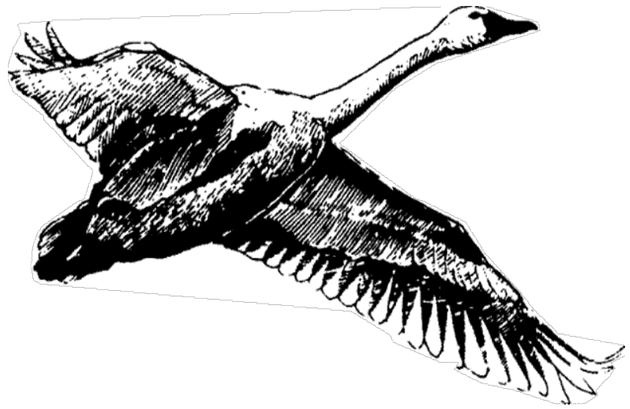
Trumpeter Swans have visited the Schildberg Quarry for, at least, Twenty-eight out of the last Twenty-nine winters. Most Trumpeter Swans migrate farther south for the winter in search of open water and food. Because of the depth of Atlantic's Schildberg Quarry, and the large number of wading waterfowl, it remains open year round, making it possible for the swans to stay. On the next page check out our last season numbers! Arrival and departure dates of the Trumpeter Swans have been as follows:

1997/1998 December – January 1998/1999 Nothing on record
1999/2000 December 25 – February 15 2000/2001 Nov. 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 *Continued on the next page...*

In this Issue:

Upcoming Events

Fall Happenings



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
2020/2021November 30- February 13
2021/2022 November 22- February 28
2022/2023November 22- February 22
2023/2024 December 2- January 30
2024/2025 December 1- February 24
2025/2026 December 2- February 23

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 more than 6 trumpeter swans to Lake 4, and if they arrive before the Nov. 11th no more dates will be taken. The winner will receive a Trumpeter Swan Prize from the Cass County Conservation Board. **This contest is strictly for residents of Cass County.** Contact Lora for more information. lkanning@casscoia.us or 712-769-2372.



Trumpeter Swan Recap and Fall happenings

One word for the last winter's Trumpeter Swan season here in Cass County "tumultuous." We battled the Avian Flu, odd ice conditions leading to the swans spreading out, and historic highest average swan counts EVER. Our swans arrived later December 2nd. We quickly climbed to over 100. Our highest was 229 swans, which is not our record of 245 in one day which still stands. But our average swan count was 141 Trumpeter Swans! Now let's get to depressing news, we had 3 swans perish by hitting the powerlines near Lake 4. We had 12 swans die of suspected Avian Flu with 9 of those being cygnets (babies) which are more vulnerable during their first year of life. We had an epic Soiree with the Swans this year, we not only had 228 swans spread out over 3 lakes but also had 3 Tundra Swans mixed in with them!! Very cool to see, it's been at least 10 years since I've seen a Tundra in Cass County! Speaking of the Soiree, you'll notice the date on the other page, it is a week later than usual to avoid the college bowl games! The private Massena pond had 5 cygnets hatch, and they all made it to flight stage!! Fall is a great time to explore what the Cass County Conservation Board areas have to offer, with cooler weather on the way(hopefully!) it's a great time to get some fresh air and enjoy the outdoors. Fall hunting seasons are starting up, please be aware in our parks! Check the Iowa DNR's regulations for all hunting season dates. Our Cass County Trails brochure is in the process of being updated, along those lines we have expanded the trail inside our Turkey Creek Educational Area (east side of Hwy 6), we created an additional ½ mile, bringing the trail total close to a mile in there! You'll see some changes at the T-Bone trail, our Nishna Valley Trails group had a great volunteer day. Weirich Welding made and installed a railing up in place up on the trail. We've also been doing some invasive species removal up along the trail. Interior updates are continuing inside the Cold Springs Park Shelter. The campground at Cold Springs Park has been busy all summer and water will remain on as long as the weather permits. So don't hesitate to get in a few more camping trips into the winter. *Continued on the last page…*

Upcoming Events

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



Movie in the Park- Nightmare before Christmas
Friday, October 23rd 8PM
9th Biennial Lighted Halloween Campground
Saturday, October 24th 7-9 PM
Cold Springs Campground, Lewis, IA
See front page for more information!

Bird Feeder Workshop
Saturday November 21st at 10 AM Free Will donation Outdoor Educational Classroom, Massena
Learn all about making bird feeders! Make and take a bird feeder home! All ages welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult. Please pre-register by November 17th by calling 769-2372.

Nature's Pallette: Making Inks and Watercolors from Native Plants
Saturday November 21st 1pm Free Will donation
Outdoor Educational Classroom, Massena We will look at the topic of making ink or watercolors out of native plants and techniques we can use. We will make our own native watercolor painting and take home. All ages welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult. Please pre-register by November 17th by calling 769-2372.



Christmas Bird Count- Cass County
Sunday December 20 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 9, 2027 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 23rd 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!

Mark your Calendars

School aged Winter Camps are in January and Feburary TBA
Don't forget Great Backyard Bird Count February 12-15th, 2027