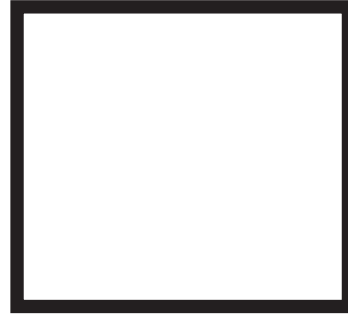


Cass Co. Cons. Bd  
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Lewis, IA 51544



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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! We are on [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#) and [YouTube](#) as well! Check us out!

## People Making a Difference...

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

Thank you to everyone that took part in our **Building Better Birder programs in 2021!**

## Mark your Calendars

Wildflower Walk  
Saturday, April 30th- 9AM  
Pellett Memorial Woods

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

### Cass County Conservation Board Members

Phil Przychodzin- Massena  
Rich Govig- Lewis  
Judy Kennedy- Atlantic  
James Stokely- Anita  
Sandra Sothman- Atlantic

## Great Backyard Bird Count

The National Audubon Society & Cornell Lab of Ornithology needs every bird enthusiast in North America to count birds February 18th-21st. 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.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 in the State...but all county numbers were low last year. We had 47 checklists. We ended up holding on to the 7th place, in terms of checklists, and 9th place in terms of species reported. Johnson county at the top spot with 181 checklists, followed by Polk, Story, Linn, Scott, and Black Hawk County! I think we can get back in the top 5 in 2022! With the new eBird system the record keeping is by county so I cannot really tell you anymore the species reported for each town, but Cass County as a whole. Iowa had 100 species reported and 1450 checklists which is double our checklists for Iowa compared to our 2019 checklists number. United States reported 666 species and 224,673 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 and get back in the top 5!!

More results: American Robins, and a sharp shinned hawk in Cass County! NO Trumpeter Swans or Duck species due to ice conditions. Only 1 Bald Eagle individual was counted at one time in Cass County, near Atlantic.

## Trumpeter Swans in Cass County!

At the time of this printing, we had an average of 40-50 Trumpeter Swans that are over-wintering at Schildberg Recreation Area- Lake 4. The swan's official date of arrival was November 22nd. On that day 22 Trumpeter Swans were here and they stayed more than twenty-four hours. The winner that picked the closest date was Mary Lou Hoskins! Our school contest winner was the second section of Mrs. Zaiger's 6th grade science at Griswold! With the odd warm weather and no ice has kept the swans a little spread out and even missing at times this year!

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Winter Update

# Winter Update!

We know 2022 is usually a Sandhill Crane trip year, Cass, Shelby, and Crawford counties regretfully must cancel this year as well. Restrictions in place at our tourist sights made it not feasible to hold it this year. Cold Springs Park and other Southwest Iowa ice fishing spots have had unsafe ice lately this early winter. You can sign up for weekly fishing reports or look at certain fisheries report. <https://www.iowadnr.gov/Fishing/Fishing-Reports> Reminder, hunting and fishing licenses expire after 1/10/22, you must purchase a new one for 2022. On our Facebook page this November we did a feature for #givingtuesday. We want to spotlight our Friends of the Outdoor Classroom; whose mission is to teach our youth to be stewards of the land through education and conservation. If you are interested in donating to this 501(c)3 please contact us and we can get you in touch with their board members. Reminder we still have surveys available for your input! We have one for our Cold Springs Campground experience, one for our Naturalist program experience and we will be asking our teachers and other facilities about their Field Trip experiences at our parks. Listed below you will find the campground and naturalist program survey links, feel free to fill the out we are always looking for suggestions! Cold Springs Camping: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z8MCHVH> Cass County Conservation Naturalist Programs: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZCHBJ5L> We are checking out our snowshoes again this year!! We require a copy of your driver's license, our signed rental agreement, and at least 4 inches of snow on the ground! The form can be found [here](#), and if you have any questions or issues email Lora at [lkanning@casscoia.us](mailto:lkanning@casscoia.us) If you haven't seen our campground playground build, we have a short video up on our [YouTube Channel!](#) With the end of 2021 brought many changes to our Conservation Board. We would like to extend our sincere thank you to Jerry Hudson and LuAnn Steffens for their years of commitment to our board. We welcome James Stokley of Anita and Sandy Sothman of Atlantic.

## 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. Our winter camp was held in December for youth in Kdg- 2nd grades.

### Nature Detectives Winter Day Camp

For youth in 3rd-5th grades.


February 17th 9AM-4PM - Atlantic Community Building

February 21st 9AM-4PM Anita Community Building

February 25th 9AM-4PM- Griswold Community Building

Please register by February 11th, and bring a sack lunch. Students will learn about animal tracking, bird nests and skulls.

## Upcoming Events

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

### Soiree with the Swans

#### Schildberg Recreation Area

**Saturday January 8th 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 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 22nd 1-4PM**

#### Outdoor Educational Classroom, Massena

Got Cabin Fever? Cure it by spending some time outside with family friendly FUN! Bring your mugs, sleds, dress for the weather, and snowshoes will be available! If you get cold, warm and tasty drinks and a movie will be playing inside our lodge! There will be no snow activities planned as well!



**Great Backyard Bird Count—See Page 1&2 for more details!! February 18-21st**

**Wednesday February 16th 3:30pm School-aged children welcome!**

#### Anita Public Library

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.



### Winter Recreation Afternoon

**Friday February 18th 2-4pm**

#### Sunnyside Park, Atlantic Near Kiddie Korral

Cass County Conservation will have their snowshoes available for check out near Kiddie Korral shelter. The Atlantic Parks and Recreation offers an assortment of winter recreation opportunities for all ages and skill levels. Cross country skis and sleds are available to be checked out from the Parks and Rec Office at (712) 243-3542. Come on out any time and try something new!

### Snowshoe Hike

**Saturday February 19th 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.



### Full Moon and Spring Equinox Night Hike

**Saturday March 19th 8:30 PM**

#### Outdoor Educational Classroom, Massena, IA

The spring equinox (vernal equinox) marks the astronomical first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. This hike will feature spring equinox facts, folklore, and more!

### Acorn Explorers

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

\*March 17th 2pm Turtles- Outdoor Educational Classroom (maybe recorded for virtual),

April 14th 2pm Signs of Spring- Cold Springs Park (maybe recorded for virtual)

FREE, These programs are targeted for 5th grade and younger doing at-home learning. 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.

### Land Protection in Iowa

**TBA Late March or April**

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, will be speaking about Iowa Natural Heritage's statewide land protection efforts and challenges in permanently protecting large blocks of wildlife habitat in Western Iowa.