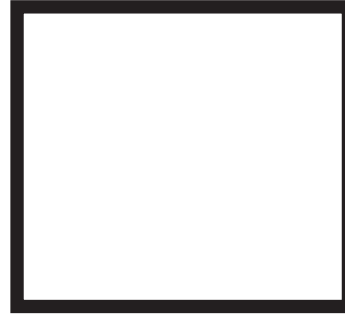


Cass Co. Cons. Bd
57744 Lewis Rd
Lewis, IA 51544



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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 **Lighted Halloween Campground!**

Mark your Calendars

Wildflower Walk
Saturday, April 29th- 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

Blaine Behnken- 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 17th-20th. 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 only 30 checklists. We ended up holding on to tie at 10th place, in terms of checklists, and 9th place in terms of species reported at 47 species. Polk county at the top spot with 110 checklists, followed by Johnson, Story, Scott, Dubuque, Black Hawk, Linn, Woodbury, and Marion County! Tied with Boone county for 10/11th place. 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 103 species reported and 1159 checklists which is a little lower in our checklists for Iowa compared to our 2021 checklists number. United States reported 682 species and 200,800 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, a sharp shinned hawk, and lots of Ducks in Cass County! Only 5 Trumpeter Swans. We had 3 Bald Eagle individuals 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 Carol Seddon! Our odd lower numbers, have the swan spread out a bit, higher numbers of swans at other wintering sites.

In this Issue:
Winter Camp

Upcoming Events

Winter Update

Winter Update!

Cold Springs Park and other Southwest Iowa ice fishing spots is now questionable ice conditions on 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 1/10/23, you must purchase a new one for 2023. 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 If you haven't seen our campground playground build, we have a short video up on our [YouTube Channel!](#) With the end of 2022 brought another change to our Conservation Board. We would like to extend our sincere thank you to Phil Przychodzin for his years of commitment to our board. We welcome Blaine Behnken of Massena. We have scheduled snowshoe programs, if we have to cancel those we may do Pop-up snowshoe programs when conditions permit! Those emails we go out by the Friday before the Pop-up programs, and on all of our social media outlets!

Winter Day Camps

FREE. Forms can be found at the quick links section at www.extension.iastate.edu/cass/. Register early, space is limited. Please contact Cass County Extension at 243-1132 for questions.

Snow Adventure Winter Day Camp

For youth in 3rd-5th grades.

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

February 20th 9AM-4PM Anita Community Building

February 24th 9AM-4PM- Griswold Community Building

Please register by February 13th or 20th, and bring a sack lunch. Students will learn about snow, snow recreation, and animals in the snow.

Penguin Winter Day Camp


For youth in Kdg-2nd grades.

March 15th 9AM-12PM- Griswold Community Building

March 24th 9AM-12PM or 1PM-4PM - Atlantic Community Building

Please register by March 9th or 20th. Learn all about the life of a penguin!

Upcoming Events

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

Cabin Fever Escape **Saturday, January 21st 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!



Full Moon Snowshoe Hike

Saturday February 4th 7PM

T-Bone I80/71 Trailhead, Atlantic, IA

We will bring our snowshoes for you to try on! Full moon will guide our way as we try out the snowshoes! Will be cancelled if not enough snow.



Great Backyard Bird Count—See Page 1&2 for more details!! February 17-20th

Wednesday February 15th 1:45pm School-aged children welcome!

Anita Public Library

Monday February 13th 5:00pm

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

Thursday February 16th 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 18th 7PM

Pellett Memorial Woods, Atlantic, IA

We will bring our snowshoes for you to try on! If the sky is clear, it will be a great night to stargaze! Will be cancelled if not enough snow.



Worm Composting Workshop

March 25th 1 PM \$25 suggested donation per bin

Outdoor Educational Classroom, Massena, IA

Come learn all about composting your food scraps at your house. Build your own worm bin! Please pre-register for this program by March 17th by calling 712-769-2372.