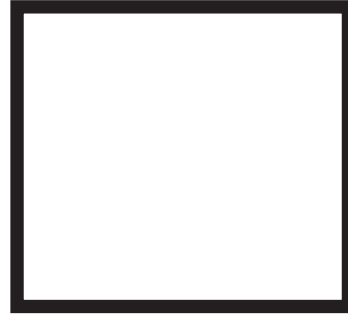


Cass Co. Cons. Bd
57744 Lewis Rd
Lewis, IA 51544



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People Making a Difference...

Thank you to everyone that took part in our **Bird House programs!**

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!

Mark your Calendars

Cass County's Pheasant's Forever Chapter Banquet
Saturday, February 24th Cass County Community Center, Atlantic
Doors open at 5pm Contact Troy Retallic at tr49ers@gmail.com for more information.

Wildflower Walk
Saturday, April 27th- 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
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 16th-19th. 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://gbbc.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 email or call our office for help in participating. 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 behind in the State...but all county numbers were low last year. We had 35 checklists, and 37 species. We got beat out by the largest counties in the state: Polk, Story, Johnson, Scott, Woodbury, Black Hawk, Dubuque, and Linn counties in that order. We got 9th in checklists but we were tied for 18th in species count! We beat Dallas county in checklists but not in species count. With the new eBird system the record keeping is by county so I can not really tell you anymore the species reported for each town, but Cass county as a whole. Iowa as a whole had 110 species reported and 1079 checklists! United States reported 671 species and 196,679 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



In this Issue: Upcoming Events

2023 Recap

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 keep #1!!

More results: American Robins, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and wild turkeys made an appearance in Cass County! Only 2 Trumpeter Swans individuals were counted at one time in Cass County, near Anita.

Trumpeter Swans in Cass County!

At the time of this printing, we have been averaging 40 Trumpeter Swans are over-wintering at Schildberg Recreation Area. The swan's official date of arrival was December 2nd. On that day 15 Trumpeter Swans were here and they stayed more than twenty-four hours. The winner that picked the closest date was Rob Johnson! It's been since the winter of 2001 that they have been that late into that month!

Sandhill Crane Bus Trip

The Cass, Crawford, and Shelby County Conservation Boards are offering a guided tour out to Kearney, Nebraska. We will be taking a Windstar bus. We will make stops at the Great Platte River Road Archway Monument, Rowe Sanctuary (to view the cranes), Nebraska Nature and Visitor Center and lots of other opportunities for bird viewing. The cost for the trip includes: transportation, lodging, one meal, entrance fee for Archway, Nature Center, and Crane blind fee at Rowe Sanctuary. At the time of this printing, some of the details were not available yet. We plan on sending an email with the updated information. If you get this by mail and want the information make sure you call the office mid-January. If you have any questions about the trip or would like more information please call Lora at (712) 769-2372 or email lkanning@casscoia.us.

2023 Recap!

As 2023 has come to an end we look back on the year and some of the exciting things that have happened with the CCCB. Director Micah Lee held the first ever Intro to Turkey hunting program at the Outdoor Classroom shelter that was well received and will most likely continue in the future, so look for that coming up later this winter or early spring. Look for new programming in 2024 with our new kayaks with immense thanks to our local Cass County Community Foundation. We were the recipient this spring for four sit in kayaks and four sit on top kayaks. The Conservation Board conducted a few controlled burns at local areas to help manage wildlife habitat and control invasive species. A major project that was completed this fall was armoring the dam at the Nodaway Pond, this project was completed with Iowa DNR Fish Habitat Grant money. It will really stabilize the dam as well as add fish habitat, so we are happy to have this done. Once again, we planted bareroot tree seedlings at the Outdoor Classroom, a variety of Iowa native species have been planted to replace the loss of hundreds of ash trees that were previously planted there. We also concentrated on habitat improvement and invasive species removal out at the Hitchcock House Recreation Area. The biggest project completed this year was the repair of the Hitchcock House Foundation. Our diligent Advisory Board noticed earlier that cracks were starting to show up in the south wall of the Hitchcock House. It was determined that the south foundation was deteriorating and needed to be repaired. This was a major undertaking by the Hitchcock House Advisory Board, CCCB, and the Cass County Board of Supervisors, but we are happy to say that it is completed, and the Hitchcock House will be ready to open next spring at it's usual time. We are looking forward to a great 2024 and hope to see you out enjoying our areas this year!

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 @casscountyacon Or watch us on our YouTube Channel!

Winter Day Camps

FREE. Forms can be found at the quick links section at www.extension.iastate.edu/cass/. Register early, space is limited.

Adventure Winter Day Camp

For youth in 3rd-5th grades.

February 15th from 9 AM– 4 PM @ Atlantic Community Center ~ Registration Due by February

12th Bring a sack lunch

February 19th from 9 AM– 4 PM @ Anita Community Center ~ Registration Due by February 14th

Bring a sack lunch

March 20th from 9 AM– 4 PM @ Griswold Community Center ~ Registration Due by March 14th

Bring a sack lunch.

Students that attend this camp that will focus on geocaching, snowshoeing, and learn about winter camping. 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.

Upcoming Events



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



Cabin Fever Escape

Saturday, January 27th 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!



Snowshoe Night Hike

Friday February 16th 7PM Outdoor Educational Classroom, Massena, 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. Free, Family Friendly!



Great Backyard Bird Count—See Page 1&2 for more details!!

February 16-19th
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.

Sweetheart Snowshoe Hike

Saturday February 17th 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! Drive the short drive and hike off that dinner! Will be cancelled if not enough snow.



Shed Antler Hike

Saturday March 9th 1:00 PM

Pellett Memorial Woods, Atlantic, IA

Come out and hike around on a scavenger hunt for Deer Antlers.

Sandhill Crane Trip

March

Kearney, NE

Checkout the information on the opposite page and watch for an email!