

Cass Co. Cons. Bd
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People Making a Difference...

Thank you to everyone that took part in our **Soiree with the Swans!**

Thank you to everyone who attended our February Programs! We wished we had snow for our snowshoe programs, maybe next year!

Thank you to the **ISU Extension Cass County** for helping our winter camps be a success!

Thank you to **Dean Downer** for all of his hard work over the past year at the Outdoor Educational Classroom. Thank you to **Sue Rodgers** for all of her hard work over the past year at our Hitchcock Recreational Area.

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!

Cass County Conservation Board Members

Phil Przychodzin- Massena Rich Govig- Lewis
Duane Curtis- Cumberland Luanne Steffens- Griswold
Jerry Hudson- Lewis

Staff

Conservation Office & Cold Springs 712-769-2372
Micah Lee- Director mlee@casscoia.us
Lora Kanning- Naturalist lkanning@casscoia.us
Ryan Lockwood- Park Superintendent ryanlockwood@netins.net
Hitchcock House 712-769-2323

Results of 2017 Great Backyard Bird Count

Overall it was an average year for Iowa in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). The Cass County Birders slipped out of the top 10, we are 11th in the State. One better than last year, but weird year of who made the 10 above us. We have some new counties ahead of us! Which is good, more checklists happening, but our dismal showing of 27 checklists surprisingly got us to 11th. Our usual completion FELL to 9th Dallas County (Adel) with 33 checklists and they were 1st last year. Johnson County had the top spot with 96 checklists and 44 species with Des Moines/Polk at their heels! 5th-10th place respectively Woodbury, Lucas, Marion, Dallas, and Madison. 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 unless we record them, but Cass county as a whole. Iowa as a whole had 116 species reported and 895 checklists! United States reported 673 species and 115,529 checklists. The GBBC is a global bird count sponsored by the National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Since 2002 the Cass County Conservation Board has advertised this bird count throughout the county encouraging citizens to participate. 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. You can explore the results at <http://ebird.org/ebird/gbbc/eBirdReports?cmd=Start>.

Cass County Results

Town	# of Checklists Submitted	37 Species Reported total
Anita	8	
Atlantic	12	
Cumberland	0	
Griswold	0	
Lewis	4	
Marne	1	
Massena	1	
Wiota	0	

More results: 2 Great tailed Grackles were seen in Anita in Lora's yard! Record low for Trumpeter Swans at 12. Only 2 Bald Eagle individuals were counted at one time in Cass County, near Lewis.

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Getting Ready for Spring in our parks

We've had some major projects completed since last Spring. Don't forget to use our camper south entrance in to Cold Springs off of Park Rd during the season. We have upgraded 8 campground sites to 50 amp service, and added gravel pads to these spots only. Please be careful of our new grass growing near those this spring. Making Shelter Reservations- To reserve the shelter at Cold Springs Park contact Ryan Lockwood at 769-2372. Don't forget we take reservations for our Outdoor Educational Classroom Lodge for meetings and events. Please contact the office if you are interested in reserving.

Summer Camps

The Cass County Conservation Board has joined with the Cass County ISU Extension Office to sponsor summer camps for the youth of Cass County. These camps were developed to give children a chance to have fun exploring and learning about nature. Registration fee is \$10 per student includes a t-shirt or lunch, return with the \$10 to the Cass County Extension Office by the deadline. If you have questions, please call Lora at 769-2372 or Shelby at 243-1132. If your children are home schooled, please call 243-1132 for registration information.

Registration Information:

The Atlantic school system can register on Registration Night in May 16 from 5:00-7:00p.m. at the Washington School Gym.

All other county school systems will have forms passed out to school children in May that will explain the registration process. Forms can also be found here: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/cass>

K-2nd Grade: M'azing Metamorphosis ~ Learn about frogs & butterflies, make crafts, build friendships and play games!

June 1 & 2 — 9 AM-12 PM @ Lake Anita (Shelter #5), Anita - Registration Deadline May 22—Fee \$10

June 5 & 6 — 9 AM-12 PM @ Cold Springs Park, Lewis - Registration Deadline May 22—Fee \$10

June 15 & 16 — 9 AM-12 PM or 1 PM-4 PM @ Sunnyside Park, Atlantic
Registration Deadline May 22— Fee \$10

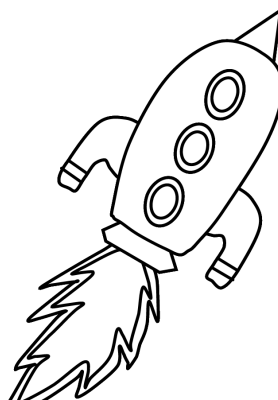
3rd-5th Grade: Fun & Flight ~ Explore things that fly through crafts, games and fun! Bring a sack lunch.

June 8 — 10 AM-3 PM @ Lake Anita (Shelter #5), Anita - Registration Deadline May 26—Fee \$10

June 9 — 10 AM-3 PM @ Cold Springs Park, Lewis - Registration Deadline May 26—Fee \$10

June 22 — 10 AM-3 PM @ Sunnyside Park, (Camblin Addition Shelter) Atlantic -
Registration Deadline June 6—Fee \$10

6th-8th Grade: Woodlands Adventure Camp ~ Learn outdoor skills such as forestry, geocaching, wood carving, hiking and dutch oven cooking (lunch) over a campfire! Busing is available from Cass Co. Community center, depart 8am, and return at 5 pm. Friday, June 30, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM at Cold Springs Park, Lewis. Registration Deadline June 21— Fee \$10 *Please Note— grade listed above refer to grade just completed!



Upcoming Conservation Events



Denotes an Oak Stroller approved event!



Wildflower Walk

Saturday, April 29th- 9AM

Pellett Memorial Woods

Join our staff for a hike to locate the early spring Wildflowers.



Hitchcock Pioneer Skills Festival- The 25th annual Pioneer Skills Festival is scheduled for Saturday, May 6th. Come visit the famous Hitchcock House (a National Landmark and former stop on the Underground Railroad) just west of Lewis and see tin punching, rope-making, butter making and many other skills that were vital to pioneer survival. This event will be open to the public from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. There will be a \$5 fee for a tour of the Hitchcock House. B.Y.O.M. for some apple cider!

Bike to School Day is May 10th

National Bike Week is May 15th-19th.

Bike to Work Day is May 19th

Save some gas and bike around that day or all week!



Lake Anita Kids' Fishing Day

Kids, come to Lake Anita on Saturday, June 3rd for a fun morning of fishing (bring your poles) and information! Learn about the fish in Lake Anita, followed by hands on fishing! Prizes will be awarded to participants, no child will leave empty handed! This event is planned in conjunction with Iowa's free fishing weekend so Iowa adults don't have to have a fishing license to join their children! To register meet at the beach parking lot at 10:00 a.m.



National Trails Day- Geocache the T-Bone Trail!!

June 3rd 10AM

Meet at the I80 Trailhead Parking Lot for the T-Bone trail.

Bike, walk, strollers, everyone is welcome! Come out and celebrate National Trails Day! We will be geocaching from the trail. Pre-register to us IF you need a GPS unit.



Cass County Fishing Derby

June 10th 8AM-NOON

Cold Springs Park

Check-in starts at 7:30am, reviewing rules right before 8. Please pre-register, derby is limited to 50 participants, 15 years old and younger. Pre-register by calling 769-2372.

E- Newsletter!

Save a tree, email Lora at lkanning@casscoia.us and let her know to add your email to get the email/PDF version of the Conservation Quarterly!