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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/March 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

Judy Kennedy- Massena

Luanne Steffens- Griswold

Jerry Hudson- Lewis

### Staff

Conservation Office & Cold Springs 712-769-2372

Micah Lee- Director [mlee@casscoia.us](mailto:mlee@casscoia.us)

Lora Kanning- Naturalist [lkanning@casscoia.us](mailto:lkanning@casscoia.us)

Ryan Lockwood- Park Superintendent

Hitchcock House 712-769-2323

## Results of 2018 Great Backyard Bird Count

Overall it was a great year for Iowa in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). The Cass County Birders are 1st in the State! Iowa overall was lower in species and in checklists happening, but our fantastic showing of 87 checklists far surpassed 2nd place Story county with 63 and Johnson County 62 checklists and with Des Moines/Polk at their heels! Story, Polk, Johnson, and Scott beat us in the 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 unless we record them, but Cass county as a whole. Iowa as a whole had 103 species reported and 780 checklists! United States reported 659 species and 110,151 checklists. The GBBC is a global bird count sponsored by the National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology, globally 6,310 species and 176,905 checklists. 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 <https://ebird.org/gbbc/places>.

### Cass County Results

Town	# of Checklists Submitted	51 Species Reported total
Anita	7	
Atlantic	78	
Cumberland	1	
Griswold	0	
Lewis	0	
Marne	1	
Massena	0	
Wiota	0	

More results: American Robins, a northern Harrier and snow geese in Cass County! Over 100 Trumpeter Swans. 6 Bald Eagle individuals were counted at one time in Cass County, near Atlantic.

### In this Issue:

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# Getting Ready for Spring in our parks

With our new Standup Paddleboards our programs will be on the last Saturday of every month, Ending Labor Day Weekend with that Saturday September 2nd. We only have 5 currently, so you must pre-register for your spot! Anyone under 16 must have a parent with them at all times. Our 60th year as a conservation board has us rolling out some new products. A frequent camper card program- ask our staff! Camping coupon books are now available! \$150 for 11 nights of camping at Cold Springs Park good until Oct 31, 2019. Weather permitting projects- West Nodaway: relocation of food plots, 2 acres of sunflowers, and 1 acre of sunflowers at Hitchcock Recreation Area. We will be remodeling and adding to our Campground Playground in Cold Springs Park. Stay tuned for our upcoming birthday party! 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 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>  
<http://www.atlantiowa.com/county/county-departments/conservation-office/>

### K-2nd Grade: Dig Those Dinosaurs

For children that have completed kindergarten, 1st, or 2nd grade

**May 30th and 31st at Lake Anita (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)** ~ Deadline May 22nd!

**June 14th and 15th at Cold Springs Park (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)** ~ Deadline June 1st!

Dig Those Dinosaurs I: **June 20th-21st (9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)** OR Dig Those Dinosaurs II: **June 20th-21st ( 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.)** Location for both days is at Sunnyside Park ~Deadline June 8th!



### 3rd-5th Grade: Water Wonders

For children that have completed 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade

**June 1st at Lake Anita (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)** ~ Deadline May 22nd!

**June 8th at Cold Springs Park (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)** ~ Deadline June 1st!

**June 19th at Sunnyside Park (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)** ~Deadline June 8th!



### 6th-8th Grade ~ Outdoor Adventure

For children that have completed 6th, 7th, or 8th grade. This camp highlights a Natural Resource job and an outdoor recreation activity. Activities this year include Wildlife activities, Archery and Dutch Oven Cooking. Busing is available from Cass Co. Community center. Lunch is provided, camp cost is \$10.

**July 6th 8 AM- 5 PM @ Cold Springs Park.** Deadline June 29th! \*Please Note- grade listed above refer to grade just completed!

## E- Newsletter!

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

# Upcoming Conservation Events



Denotes an Oak Stroller approved event!

### Wildflower Walk

**Saturday, April 28th- 9AM**

### Pellett Memorial Woods

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



**Hitchcock Pioneer Skills Festival-** The 26th annual Pioneer Skills Festival is scheduled for **Saturday, May 5th.** 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 9th**

**National Bike Week is May 14th-18th.**

**Bike to Work Day is May 18th**

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



### Movie in the Park

**May 25th 9PM- Cold Springs Park Campground Shelter- TBA**

Come out for a movie under the stars! Bring a blanket or chair, Dress for the weather and if it RAINS it will be CANCELLED.

### Lake Anita Kids' Fishing Day

Kids, come to Lake Anita on **Saturday, June 2nd** 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! Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. near at the beach parking lot, fishing starts at 10AM. **National Trails Day- Lake Anita 12:30pm** Near beach/shelter 5 parking area.

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

**June 2nd 10AM**

**Meet at the Dunbar Rd Trailhead Parking Lot for the T-Bone trail.**

Bike, walk, strollers, everyone is welcome! Come out and celebrate National Trails Day! We will be Hiking on the trail.



### Cass County Fishing Derby

**June 9th AM**

**Cold Springs Park**

Please pre-register, derby is limited to 50 participants, 15 years old and younger. Pre-register by calling 769-2372.

**Standup Paddleboard Demonstration- see information on opposite page.**

**Cold Springs Park- Beach**

May 26th 1pm- 5 Spots available

2:30PM- 5 Spots available

June 30th 9am- 5 Spots available

10:30am- 5 Spots available