

Cass Co. Cons. Bd
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Results of 2015 Great Backyard Bird Count

Overall it was a low year for Iowa in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). The Cass County Birders slipped out of the top 10, we are 12th in the State. Dallas County (Adel) regained the top spot with 102 checklists and 49 species, they came in 2nd last year. Johnson County 78 checklists and 44 species with Des Moines at their heels with 73 checklists but had the most species at 52! 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 91 species reported and 795 checklists! United States reported 671 species and 109,139 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	28 Species Reported total
Anita	1	
Atlantic	23	
Cumberland	0	
Griswold	0	
Lewis	0	
Marne	1	
Massena	1	
Wiota	0	

More results: 5 Bald Eagle individuals were counted at one time in Cass County.

People Making a Difference...

Thank you to everyone that took part in our **Soiree with the Swans!**
Thank you to the **ISU Extension Cass County and 4-H Leadership Council** for helping our winter camps a success!
Thank you to **Dean Downer** for all of his hard work over the past year at the Outdoor Educational Classroom.

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!

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!

In this Issue:
 Spring Updates
 Upcoming Events
 Summer Camps!

Getting Ready for Spring in our parks

We've had some major projects completed since last Spring. Our new camper south entrance in Cold Springs off of Park Rd is all ready for the season. We have upgraded 8 campground sites to 50 amp service. We do have some final dirt work near those this spring. The exterior of our offices got a facelift too. 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 includes a t-shirt. If you have questions, please call Lora at 769-2372 or Beth at 243-1132.

Registration Information:

The Atlantic school system can register on Registration Night in May from 6:00-8:00p.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>
If your children are home schooled, please call 243-1132 for registration information.

K-2nd Grade: Dig Those Dinosaurs

For children that have completed kindergarten, 1st, or 2nd grade
May 28th and 29th at Lake Anita (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.) ~ Deadline May 22nd!
June 1st and 2nd at Cold Springs Park (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.) ~ Deadline May 22nd!
Dig Those Dinosaurs I: June 15th-16th (9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) OR Dig Those Dinosaurs II: June 15th-16th (1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.) Location for both days is at Sunnyside Park ~Deadline June 5th!



3rd-5th Grade: Water Wonders

For children that have completed 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade
June 4th at Lake Anita (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) ~ Deadline May 22nd!
June 5th at Cold Springs Park (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) ~ Deadline May 22nd!
June 12th at Sunnyside Park (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) ~Deadline June 5th!



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. June 30th 8 AM- 5 PM @ Cold Springs Park. Deadline June 19th!

Upcoming Conservation Events



Denotes an Oak Stroller approved event!

Cass County's Pheasant's Forever Chapter Banquet

Saturday, April 11th
Cass County Community Center, Atlantic
Doors open at 5pm Contact Rick Kanning at 249-2517 for more information.



Wildflower Walk

Saturday, April 25th- 9AM
Pellett Memorial Woods
Join our staff for a hike to locate the early spring Wildflowers.



Hitchcock Pioneer Skills Festival- The 23rd annual Pioneer Skills Festival is scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd. 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 6th National Bike Week is May 11th -15th. Bike to Work Day is May 15th

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



Lake Anita Kids' Fishing Day

Kids, come to Lake Anita on Saturday, June 6th 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.

Cass County Conservation Board Members

Phil Przychodzin- Massena Bob Muldoon- Atlantic
Duane Curtis- Cumberland Luanne Steffens- Griswold
Jerry Hudson- Lewis

Staff

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Lora Kanning- Naturalist lkanning@casscoia.us
Ryan Lockwood- Park Superintendent ryanlockwood@netins.net
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