

# Conservation Quarterly

Cass County Conservation Board

WINTER 2012/2013



## Trumpeter Swans in Cass County

Fifty-two Trumpeter Swans were over-wintering at the Schildberg Quarry in northwest Atlantic on 1/15/13. Two of them are marked (with red or green collars), making it possible to keep track of their travels. Both of the marked swans have previously over-wintered at Schildberg Quarry. Our highest number of swans for the year is 60 on 1/5/13. The LAST handful of 5th annual Soiree with the Swans long sleeved t-shirts are still for sale, Marked down XL \$10 and 2XL/3XL are \$10, Stop at our office and pick one up TODAY!! The swans arrival was Nov 24th.

**5C5** is a male from West Bend, IA. He has been coming to the Schildberg quarry for eight winters now. **5H5**, a male of Blaine Behnken's captive pair, after being released at Lake Anita on 4/6/05. He has been here for seven winters now in Atlantic, IA, their nest site is unknown.

Our Swan Contest winner Alice Brown (November 24!) and for the School Contest Mrs. Christensen's 3rd grade class at Washington Elementary had the closest date!

## Great Backyard Bird Count

The National Audubon Society & Cornell Lab of Ornithology needs every bird enthusiast in North America to count birds February 15th-18th. 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.birdsource.org/gbbc> 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. Since 2002 the Cass County Conservation Board has advertised this bird count throughout the county encouraging citizens to participate. Last year we had a strong second place finish behind Adel at 102, we were only up one checklist from last year, tell your friends! We were not the highest number of species recorded by a town overall but a strong showing beating Adel by **ONE** species! Also the difference between us and 3rd place was only 6 checklists (Des Moines was 3rd.) Congratulations Cass County on a wonderful response! Check out the next page as well to see our county results.

Continued on Page 2



# Great Backyard Bird Count Cont.



## 2012 Cass County Results ...

<u>Town</u>	<u># of Checklists Submitted</u>	<u># of Species Reported</u>
Anita	3	23
Atlantic	78 (2nd place)	43
Cumberland	5	6
Griswold	2	13
Lewis	3	12
Exira	2	12
Massena	2	8
Marne	1	13
Wiota	3	15

## Blast from the Past

Since it is a special birthday this year (#55 if you were not counting) we thought it would be fantastic to go back to the First edition of the Conservation Quarterly-spring 1989, and reprint an article. We found some things that are still the same! Some things the same: Wildflower hike, summer camps, and our classic listing of employees and board members. One article of interest was the Chickadee checkoff as follows. It's tax time again. The time of the year when many cringe at the thought of plowing through all those tax forms. Believe it or not, there is some good that comes out of our taxes. The Iowa tax form has a line marked "chickadee checkoff", and funds received from this line solely fund the Iowa Nongame Program. Since it began in 1982, it has enabled over 51,000 people to learn more about our nongame species through talks and workshops. The Iowa Nongame Program has provided funding for many research projects and for land acquisition. They have reintroduced the river otter to Iowa, and are currently working to restore the Peregrine Falcon's numbers to Iowa. The Nongame Program cares for and about the nongame species in Iowa. Show them you care too by checking the Chickadee Checkoff on your tax form!

This program in most recent years funds our Trumpeter Swans! Other current projects are Osprey, Prairie Chickens, and still the Peregrine Falcon's. It is also now listed as 58a. Fish/Wildlife on the form.



# Oak Strollers Nature Club for Families

New for 2013 Oak Strollers Nature Club sponsored by Cass County Conservation. Join us for monthly events to guide your family outdoors! Events will be for all ages. Some events may be public Cass County Conservation and some may occur during the day when school is in. The nature club led by Naturalist, Lora Kanning gives parents the comfort of exploring nature in Cass County. We'd like to foster an environment where families can bond together as they play, talk and learn in nature.

All events are for the purpose of getting families involved in activities outside. **Bring your child and plan to stay and have a great time-making a memory.**

**February 15th– Owl Prowl (see below)**

**March 21st is Rocks at Schildberg Rec. Area– Lake 4 11AM**

**April 27th —Wildflower Walk (see below)**

## Upcoming Programs

### Owl Prowl

**Friday February 15th 7 PM**

**Pellett Memorial Woods, Atlantic, IA**

Come out for a great night hike, who knows what nature has waiting for us then!



### Couples Snowshoe Hike

**Saturday February 16th 8 PM**

**Pellett Memorial Woods, Atlantic, IA**

New fresh idea to spend Valentines Day with the one you love! Drive the short drive and hike off that dinner! We will hike and try to call in various species of Owls that may be in the park that night!

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

February 15-18th

### Atlantic Garden Seminar

**Session: Rain Barrel Class**

**Saturday March 16th**

**Atlantic High School, Atlantic, IA**

There is a fee to attend the day long seminar.

Please pre-register by getting a registration form on <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/cass/> website.



## Other Upcoming Events



### Cass County's Pheasant's Forever Chapter Banquet

Saturday, March 16th

**Cass County Community Center, Atlantic**

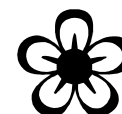
Doors open at 5pm Contact Matt Dollison at 249-4795 for more information.

### 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!**



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**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!

**The Gift of Time**

*Thank you to everyone that took part in our Lighted Halloween Campground!*

Especially to Cappel's Ace Hardware as our sponsor of the event!

*Thank you to everyone that took part in the Green Home Products workshop...*

Especially to Complementary Care a sponsor!!

*Thank you to everyone that took part in the Bird Feeder Workshop...*

Especially to Orscheln's as a sponsor!

**People Making a Difference:**

- A special thank you to Gail Skelly for her donation of binoculars to our Environmental Education department.
- A special thank you to Bob Voggesser for feeding the swans and reporting information to the Conservation Board!
- Thank you to everyone that made a donation at the Soiree with the Swans program.
- *Thank you to everyone that took part in the Soiree with the Swans...*

Especially to Schildberg Construction, Iowa DNR, Cass County Conservation Board Members, Hy-vee, Atlantic News Telegraph, Atlantic Park and Recreation dept, Behnken Family, and KJAN for their donations of time or talent!!

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**Cass County Conservation Board**  
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 Luanne Steffens- Griswold  
 Bob Muldoon- Atlantic  
 Duane Curtis- Cumberland  
 Ken Lawton- Lewis  
 John Curry- Massena  
  
**Staff**  
 Micah Lee- Director  
 Lora Kanning- Naturalist  
 Ryan Lockwood- Park Superintendent  
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