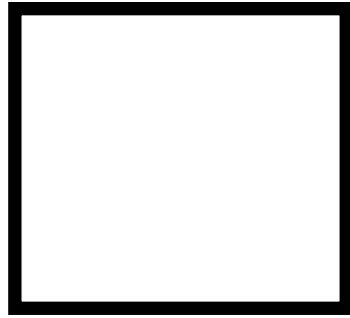




Cass Co. Cons. Bd
57744 Lewis Rd
Lewis, IA 51544

Conservation Quarterly Cass County Conservation Board Fall 2024




Printed on Recycled Paper

People Making a Difference...

Thank you to **Cassie Wendl of SOAR**, for coming and doing her raptors program for Breakfast with the Birds!

A continued thanks to **Robin Loring** for being our Caretaker of the Hitchcock House!

E-Newsletter!

Know anyone missing our digital edition, email Lora at lkanning@casscoia.us and let her know to add their email to get the email/PDF version of the Conservation Quarterly!

Winter Recreation Checkout

We take reservations for our Outdoor Educational Classroom Lodge for meetings and events through the winter as we do keep it plowed. Please contact the office if you are interested in reserving. Snow will be coming! Snowshoes are available for checkout here at our offices! Check in and out must be within our office hours! Link to sign up is found at our website: <https://www.casscountyia.gov/county-departments/conservation-office/> I have 5 pairs of snowshoes that fit children 90 lbs. and below. I have 25 pairs fit children/adults weighing up to 175 lbs. and 3 pairs for adults/children over 175 lbs.

Mark your Calendars

Mammals R Us Winter Camp for K-2nd graders, January 2nd at Cass Co. Comm. Bldg.

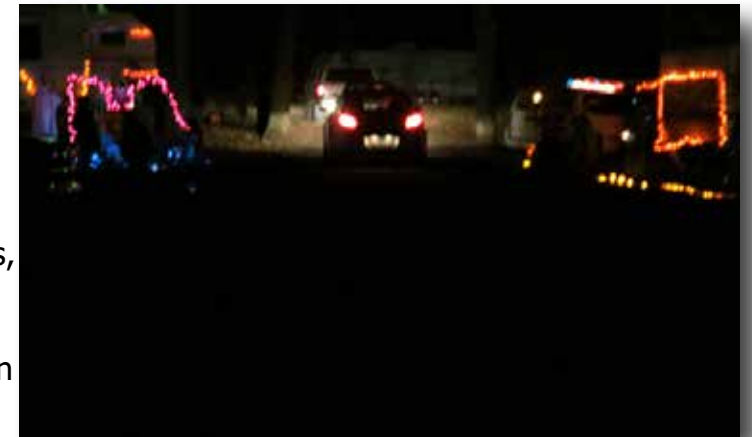
Don't forget Great Backyard Bird Count February 14-17th, 2025

Cass County Conservation Board Members

Blaine Behnken- Massena
Rich Govig- Lewis
Judy Kennedy- Atlantic
Mark Smith- Atlantic
Sandra Sothman- Atlantic

8th Biennial Lighted Halloween Campground

This event is a great non-scary, Family Friendly, FREE, drive into the night! Prizes will be for the top 3 voted sites, and for some special categories. Call to volunteer to help that night, or call to sign up for a site to decorate! If you sign up to decorate a site, Saturday night of camping is on us!! Saturday October 19th at Cold Springs Park in Lewis 7-9 PM. Deadline for decorating a site sign up is October 11th and the groups will have Saturday(19th) from Noon on to decorate. Please help us make it a success! You do get Saturday night camping for FREE. (if you choose to camp- not required) You DO NOT have to have a camper (we've seen some great sites done with tents and easy-ups etc) Message, call, or email us, with Name, email and Phone number! Call the Cass County Conservation Office to get involved @712-769-2372! The event will be cancelled if there is inclement weather. Please enter the park through the campground entrance.



Trumpeter Swan Contest

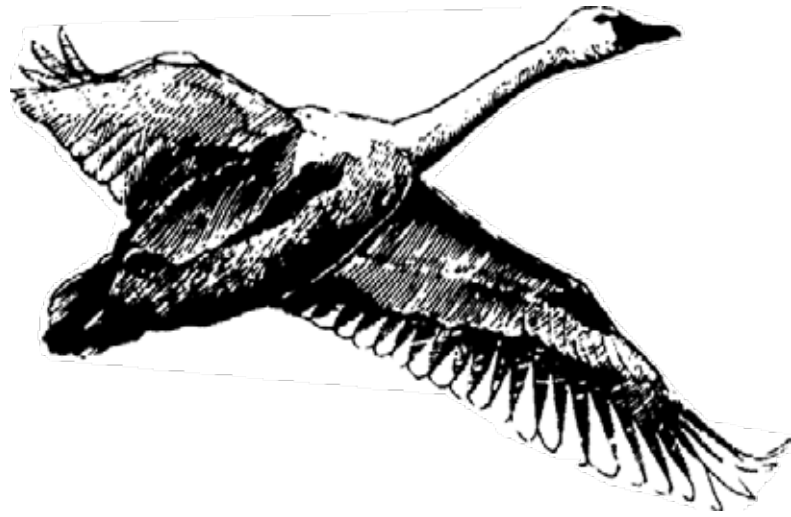
Trumpeter Swans have visited the Schildberg Quarry for, at least, Twenty-five out of the last Twenty-six winters. Most Trumpeter Swans migrate farther south for the winter in search of open water and food. Because of the depth of Atlantic's Schildberg Quarry, and the large number of wading waterfowl, it remains open year round, making it possible for the swans to stay. Last season we had an average of 29 visit, and the most on one day was 54! Arrival and departure dates of the Trumpeter Swans have been as follows:

1997/1998	December – January	1998/1999	Nothing on record
1999/2000	December 25 – February 15	2000/2001	Nov. 23 – March 6
2001/2002	December 25 – February 24		
2002/2003	November 23 – March 15	2003/2004	November 26 - March 21
2004/2005	November 25 – March 18	2005/2006	November 17 – March 5
2006/2007	October 30 – March 9	2007/2008	November 22- February 14

In this Issue:

Upcoming Events

Fall Happenings



2008/2009 November 18- March 12
 2009-2010 November 19 - January 5
 2010-2011 November 5 – February 10
 2011/2012 November 17 – February 21
 2012/2013 November 24– March 4
 2013/2014 November 12- April 7
 2014/2015 November 11- April 6
 2015/2016 November 22- March 24
 2016/2017 November 19- March 9
 2017/2018 November 9- March 20
 2018/2019 November 11- January 23
 2019/2020 November 8- March 3
 2020/2021 November 30- February 13
 2021/2022 November 22- February 28

2022/2023 November 22- February 22

2023/2024 December 2- January 30

The Cass County Conservation Board is asking you...When do you think the first Trumpeter Swan will arrive at the Schildberg Quarry? Please call in your prediction (by November 11th) to the Conservation Board at 712-769-2372, leave a message and return phone number if we are not in. Duplicate dates will not be allowed. For example, if a caller predicts November 25th, no one else will be allowed to predict that arrival date. So, call anytime until November 11th to make your prediction! One prediction per family, please. The sponsors of this contest will determine the official arrival of more than 6 trumpeter swans to Lake 4, and if they arrive before the Nov. 11th no more dates will be taken. The winner will receive a Trumpeter Swan Prize from the Cass County Conservation Board. **This contest is strictly for residents of Cass County.** Contact Lora for more information. lkanning@casscoia.us or 712-769-2372.

Trumpeter Swan Recap and Fall happenings

Our unmarked Trumpeter Swans returned to Massena again this year. The pair started out looking promising but by the end of July they were unsuccessful in hatching a family. We had a very roller coaster winter at Schildberg Recreation Area in 2023/2024 we had an average of 29 visit. We have only had high of 54 at one time. The swans disappeared from the Lake by January 15, with Lake 4 completely icing over on the 19th, and staying iced over for a couple days. Which even though it was short our swans really moved on. We had a busy summer camp, summer reading program, and nature tots season. We are always looking for suggestions for public programs or other educational opportunities.

Fall is a great time to explore what the Cass County Conservation Board areas have to offer, with cooler weather on the way(hopefully!) it's a great time to get some fresh air and enjoy the outdoors. As of writing this we have started our fall hunting seasons, so be mindful that you maybe sharing the areas with hunters. Check the Iowa DNR's regulations for all hunting season dates. Fall is also a great time to do some fishing, not as many people take advantage of fall fishing but it can be a great time, as fish are actively feeding for the upcoming winter and there generally isn't as much competition from other anglers as there is in the spring and summer. The Outdoor Classroom Pond has been restocked this past year after doing a lot of renovation work on the pond and we look forward to some great fishing there in the future. The campground at Cold Springs Park has been busy all summer and will remain open until the end of October so don't hesitate to get in a few more camping trips before winter. We hope to see you out enjoying our parks this fall!



Upcoming Events



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



8th Biennial Lighted Halloween Campground
Saturday, October 19th 7-9 PM
Cold Springs Campground, Lewis, IA
 See front page for more information!



Bird Feeder Workshop
Saturday November 23rd at 10 AM
Free Will donation

Outdoor Educational Classroom, Massena

Learn all about making bird feeders! Make and take a bird feeder home! All ages welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult. Please pre-register by November 15th by calling 769-2372.

Nature Journaling

Saturday November 23rd 1pm Free Will donation

Outdoor Educational Classroom, Massena We will look at the topic of nature journaling and techniques we can use. We will make our own nature journal to use and take home.



Leopold Bench making
Saturday December 7th 1pm \$35
Outdoor Educational Classroom, Massena

Learn all about making a Leopold bench! Make and take a bench home! They make great christmas gifts! All ages welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult. Please pre-register by December 2nd by calling 769-2372.



Christmas Bird Count
Cass County
Sunday December 22 8am-4:30pm

Those that want to participate in the count will be meeting at Cold Springs State Park in Lewis at 8:00am to divide into groups that will cover different sections of the count circle. Birders are encouraged to dress for the conditions and bring along binoculars and bird books. The count will run until 4:30pm that day as we cover a 15 mile diameter circle as thorough as we can. We will meet for lunch at Noon at the Atlantic Pizza Ranch to compare lists and reboot for counting in the afternoon. You are welcome to join for the whole day or just the morning or afternoon sessions.

Soiree with the Swans

Saturday, January 4, 2025 at

Schildberg Recreation Area 11:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m. in case of no swans or bad weather it will be held at the Atlantic Public Library Community Room 12:00-1:00 p.m. Presentations will be every half hour with the last presentation will be at 2 p.m.

Cabin Fever Escape

Saturday, January 18th 1-4PM

Outdoor Educational Classroom, Massena

Got Cabin Fever? Cure it by spending time outdoors (sledding, and snowshoes) with family friendly activities! If you get cold, warm tasty drinks and a movie will be playing inside the shelter!

