



THE WOOD DUCK



Newsletter #260

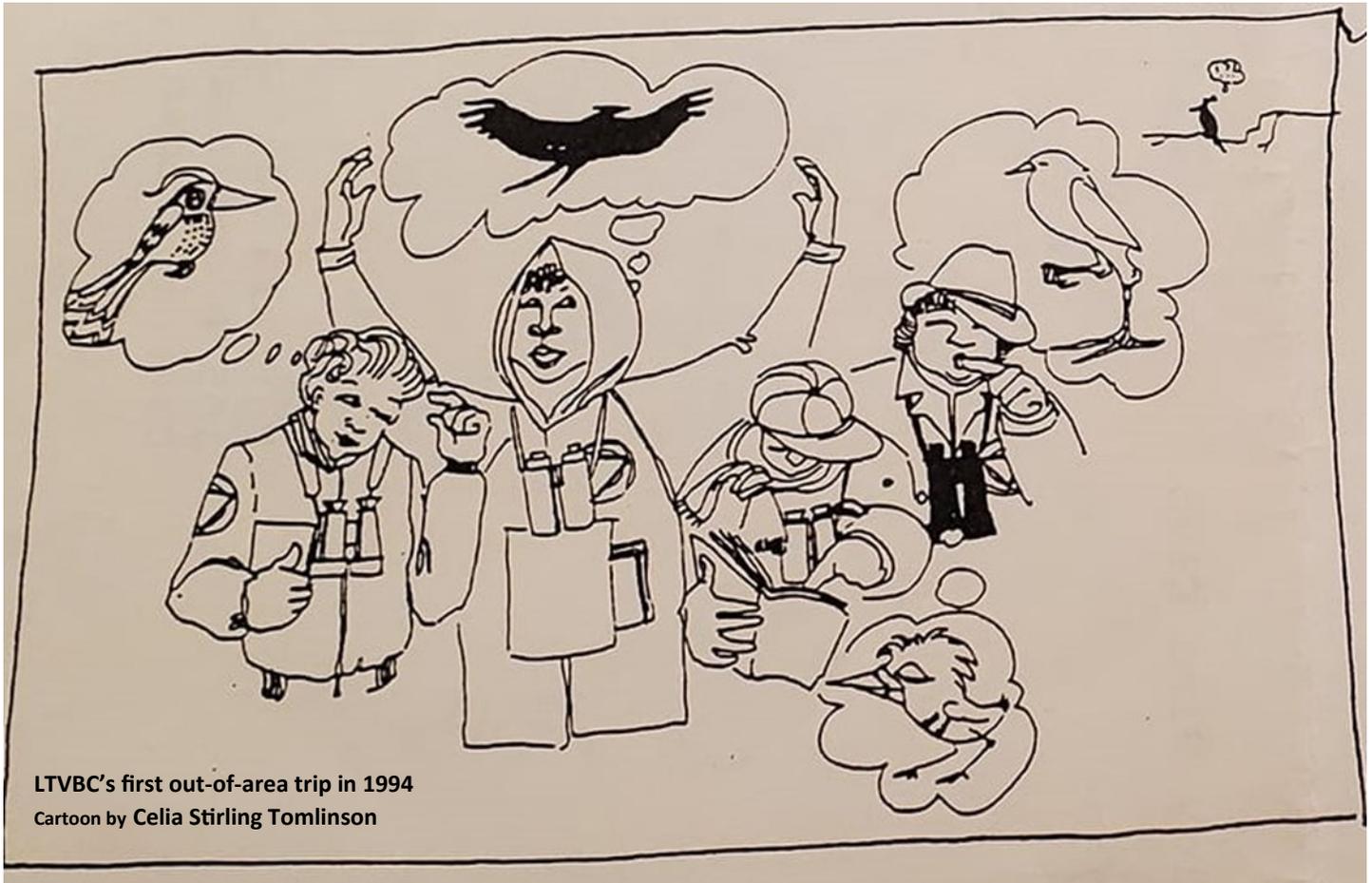
Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club

February 2022

www.LowerTrinityValleyBirdClub.org

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PO Box 6051 Liberty, Texas 77575



LTVBC's first out-of-area trip in 1994
Cartoon by Celia Stirling Tomlinson

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It's time to pay
your membership
dues for 2022.
See last page.

Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2022



The Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club met Thursday, January 13, 2022, via virtual meeting due to the COVID-19 Virus. Twelve members were present at this month's meeting. President Gary Holmes called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM.

Treasurer's Report: Checking account balance is \$1,298.24. The David Dauphin savings account balance is \$1,006.06.

Old Business:

- Duck Stamps for 2021-2022 (Lesser Scaup) are available for purchase from Shelli Ellerbe.
- Christmas Bird Counts:
 - The Old River Christmas Bird Count reported seeing 125 different species of birds.
 - The Trinity River Christmas Bird Count reported seeing 81 different species of birds.

New Business:

- The weekend field trip will be to Granger Lake in Williamson County from January 28th through the 30th. We will travel on Friday, January 28 and arrive at noon. On Sunday, January 30th we will bird in the morning and depart for home in the afternoon. If you are interested, please contact Gary or Shelli.
- The LTVBC Birding Adventure trip for 2022 will be to the Davis Mountains August 18-23, 2022. This is a six-day and 5-night trip. See the January Newsletter for details. If interested, please contact Gary or Shelli. If you are going and have made your hotel reservations, please let Shelli know.
- This month's field trip will be to Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge on January 22, 2022. The BCA Environmental Science Students (around 10 juniors and seniors) will be joining us.

Speaker Presentation: Shelli Ellerbe gave a great slide presentation of Duck Migration and Identification.

Since there was no more new or old business to discuss, Beth McBroom made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Margo Taylor seconded, all agreed and the meeting was adjourned.

Renie O'Connor
Secretary

Have you bought your 2021-2022 Duck Stamp?

Support wetland conservation, get your **Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp**. See page 6 for more information.



President's Message

by Gary Holmes

The LTVBC had a busy January with good participation in all our activities. Our January club meeting was held online. We discussed the Christmas Bird Count results, continued plans for our August Davis Mountain Trip and Shelli Ellerbe reviewed us on duck migration and duck identification. Our **Anahuac field trip** was cold, with great ducks, and we hosted eleven of the Baytown Christian Academy Environmental Science kids.



The last weekend in January, seven LTVBC members and a guest spent three enjoyable days in the **Granger Lake/Austin area**. We identified 56 species in Williamson Co. and 33 species in Travis Co.

Scanning the plowed fields for Mountain Plover. Our guide said, "Look for the dirt clods with legs."

In February, we had an **online meeting on Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022, at 6:30pm**. In the meeting, we will shared the Granger Lake stories / pictures and reviewed local sparrow identification.

Our Saturday, Feb.19, 2022, the field trip will be to **Paul & Colette Micallef's home**, which is north of Kenefick. This is a wonderful opportunity for great Liberty County birding. The world-wide **Great Backyard Bird Count** is February 18-21, 2022.

*Our 2022 Summer Birding adventure will be to the **Davis Mountains on August 18-23, 2022** (6 days-5 nights). We will have access to **Beth McBroom's feeders in the Davis Mountain Preserve** and other private feeder hotspots. We will bird the Fort Davis Area, Balmorhea, Marathon and other sites. It is time to reserve your room at the Indian Lodge. Details can be found in previous emails. Friday, February 18, is the last day to reserve your room.*

Hope to see you at one of our activities soon,

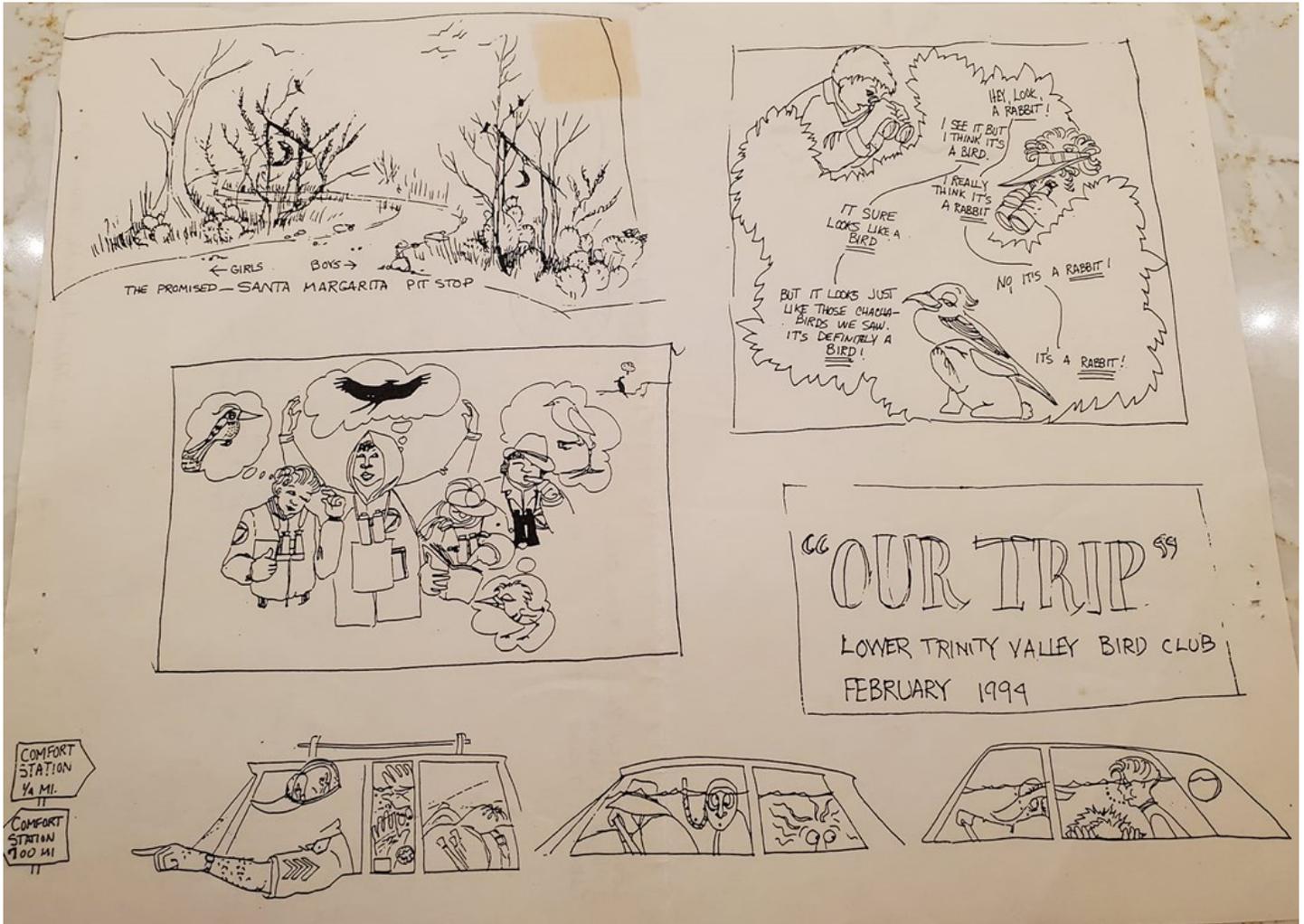
Gary

2021-22 Meeting Schedule		
Meetings - Second Thursday at 6:30 PM		
Date	Topic	Speaker/Event
Thursday, March 10, 2022	Spring Warblers	Gary Holmes
No Thursday meeting in April		

From Barbara Tilton:

LTVBC's first out-of-area trip to the Valley in 1994

I was going through some drawers and ran across this cartoon drawing that Ceal, **Celia Stirling Tomlinson**, did of some things that happened on the LTVBC's first out-of-area trip to the Valley in 1994...fun memories!!! It was the first time that most of us had ever been to the Valley. This drawing came out in our newsletter.



2021-22 Field Trip Schedule	
Field trips - 3rd Saturday	
Day/Date	Location
Saturday, February 19, 2022	Micallef's Home
Saturday, March 19, 2022	Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR Eagle Lake
Saturday, April 16, 2022	High Island, Bolivar, Anahuac
Saturday, April 23, 2022	Sabine Woods
Saturday, May 14, 2022	Picnic - TBD

Anahuac NWR Field Trip Saturday, Jan 22, 2022



BCA Environmental Science students with binoculars purchased from the David Dauphin Fund.

The temperature was 28°F in morning and stayed cold all day. However, it was a great trip-we identified 71 species and we were able to help the high school students with their bird identification and questions.

Participants were Lisa Holmes, Marvin Masters, Joe Hall, Gary & Lisa Holmes, Barbara Tilton, Mary Hannigan, Renie O'Connor, Stephanie & Walter Davis, Sam Ford, Paul Fagala, Stuart Marcus, Shelli Ellerbe, Margo Taylor and eleven Environmental Science students from Baytown Christian Academy.

Comments/Thanks from the BCA Students:

It was admittedly overwhelming trying to find/ identify multiple species of birds, but fortunately members of the LTVBC kindly helped identify birds to add to my Merlin Bird ID lifelist. In total, I identified around 22 different species of birds, most being waterfowl, but we did spot a Bald eagle, a White-tailed Kite, and Northern Harrier. On January 22, from around 8:30-11:45, I accompanied members of the LTVBC in observing wintering birds at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge. Members of the LTVBC Such as Paul Fagala and Joe Hall helped explain and ID birds such as the Northern Shoveler (Formerly referred to as the “Smiling Mallard” as explained by Joe) and the Ring-billed Gull which I identified with the help of Paul. We identified two different yet similar variants of Cormorants, one being the Neotropic Cormorant and the other being the Double-crested Cormorant, with the significant difference between the two being size and color during breeding. Though the weather was less than favorable, it was still an enjoyable time and I would like to thank the LTVBC for allowing me to come on this trip.

Rajean S, BCA Senior

The Anahuac Wildlife trip was like something I've seen in a movie, it was crazy just watching all of the animals bond and just live life so freely. The climate and the air was just so natural, what threw me off was you would just see stuff out of the random. It was cool seeing the animals in a flock

through the telescope. It was something I would never forget and most definitely recommended. I want to thank everyone that made it a good time for us.

Brandon F, BCA Sr

My experience on the field trip was fun. I learned a lot of birds that I did not know before. I saw at least 30 different species of birds. My favorite bird was the roseate spoonbill because it had a unique look. I enjoyed being in nature and identifying the birds. The people there were very nice and helpful. It surprised me how well the people knew all of the birds we saw.

Mila G, BCA Sr

My experience on the field trip to Anahuac was fun and very cold. This was something that I had never done before and woke up early to go look at birds. I never really pay attention to how many different birds there are out there. We saw a lot of ducks, there were so many of them. One of my favorites was the Cinnamon Teal. They look really pretty. I enjoy going with the group we had and just having fun and looking at birds. Also, thank you to the adults that came along with us and showed us different things that I never saw before.

Ellie E, BCA Senior

My trip to Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge was very fun and interesting. I got to see over a thousand ducks and over thirty different species of birds. I covered all the different bird species on my Merlin Bird ID. My favorite bird at Anahuac was the Bald Eagle. I love how he puts fear in other birds and makes them run away when they see him. One thing I learned in Anahuac was that the ducks get along with other ducks. I had never seen so many ducks together before and I was shocked to see them with each other. I would like to thank the LTVBC for donating us some binoculars. They really helped us find birds that were either flying or far away. I would also like to thank Dr. Holmes for setting up a field trip for us to go to the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge. I had so much fun on this trip and will love to go again sometime.

Elijah L, BCA Junior

I went on the ANWR trip and the most surprising thing was how well Dr. Holmes' group could identify birds without even needing to use a app. While I was there, I probably saw at least 6,000 birds. I was most thankful for the nice ladies that were in charge of group B, because one of them gave me some gloves that really helped. My favorite bird was the pied-billed grebe because he can swim under water and I have never seen a bird do that before. I enjoyed hanging out with my friends and looking at birds. I identified 22 birds while I was there.

Sloane R, BCA Junior



The Great Backyard Bird Count



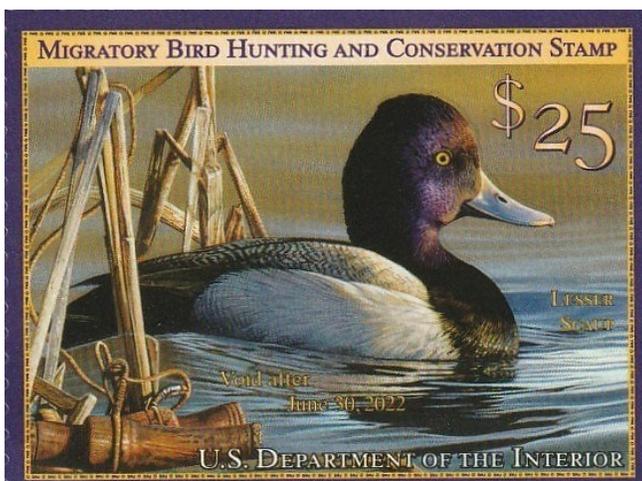
February 18-21, 2022

Each February, for four days, the world comes together for the love of birds. Over these four days we invite people to spend time in their favorite places watching and counting as many birds as they can find and reporting them to us. These observations help scientists better understand global bird populations before one of their annual migrations.

The Great Backyard Bird Count uses eBird, one of the world's largest nature databases. It stores more 100 million bird sightings contributed each year and is used by professionals for science and conservation. Contribute to eBird and become a citizen scientist.

New to the Great Backyard Bird Count or to using eBird? Explore [How to Participate](#).

2021-22 Duck Stamps



Officially called the **Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp**, these stamps help conserve habitat for birds. The bird club is allowed sell them to you at face value plus a handling fee. We're going to **sell them at face value, which is \$25**. If you want a key chain to display it in, we have those, too. The **blank key chain will be \$2.00**. The stamps and key chains will be available at our field trips and meetings or by contacting Shelli Ellerbe at 936-334-2874. **Cash or check to LTVBC, please.**

Learn more about Duck Stamps at:

<https://www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp/duck-stamp-information-for-birders-and-photographers.php>

Granger Lake Weekend Trip, January 28-30, 2022

We identified 56 species in Williamson County including the rare **Northern Shrike** and **Fork-tailed Flycatcher**. Also, we saw 33 species in Travis County including a rare winter **Baltimore Oriole**.

We visited many interesting birding sites- Booty's Road Park, Berry Springs Park, Hornsby Bend, and the many units around Granger Lake. We had no luck with Mountain Plovers in the immense plowed fields. **Rich Kostecke**, expert birder and Austin resident, was our guide. Participants were Beth McBroom and her friend Barbara, Lisa & Gary Holmes, Shelli Ellerbe, Margo Taylor, and John Pike.



We started early on Saturday looking for Short-eared Owls



Fork-tailed Flycatcher



Above: Northern Shrike

Left: Margo scoping the shrike

Burrowing Owl
According to Rich ,“The most
photographed bird in Williamson
County”



Left: Ruddy Duck at Hornsby
Bend in Travis County

Right: Immature Baltimore
Oriole at Hornsby Bend in
Travis County





LOWER TRINITY VALLEY BIRD CLUB

Membership Information

[Check us out on Facebook!](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/98618981435/>

**It's time to pay 2022 club dues.
Please make checks payable to
LTVBC.**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

_____ Update my information

_____ New Member _____ Renewing Member

_____ Donation \$ _____

_____ Donation to D. Dauphin Memorial Fund

\$ _____

_____ Student Membership \$10.00

_____ Individual Membership \$20.00

_____ Family Membership \$35.00

_____ Sponsor Membership \$50.00

Dues can be paid online at <https://www.lowertrinityvalleybirdclub.org/>

Or mailed to:

Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club

P.O. Box 6051

Liberty, TX 77575