



# THE WOOD DUCK



Newsletter #267

Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club

March 2023

[www.LowerTrinityValleyBirdClub.org](http://www.LowerTrinityValleyBirdClub.org)

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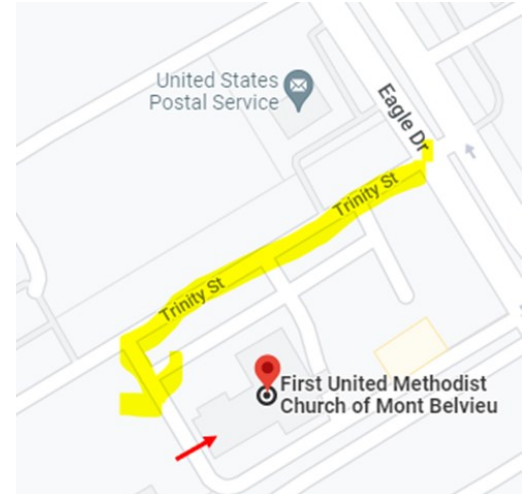
PO Box 6051 Liberty, Texas 77575

## LTVBC Meeting March 2023

LOWER TRINITY VALLEY BIRD CLUB

**Thursday, March 9 at 6:30 p.m.**

Mont Belvieu Methodist Church  
10629 Eagle Dr,  
Mont Belvieu, TX 77523



We will meet in the fellowship hall at the back of the church.

**Directions:** Traveling on Eagle Drive, turn **west onto Trinity St.** (between the Post Office and the church). Traveling on Trinity St, **turn left into the third driveway** and park behind the church. Enter through the door under the porte-cochere.

Be sure to come early for our “Birder’s Chat” time. If you have any questions, call President Gary Holmes at 713-366-1722 or e-mail him at [geholmes52@gmail.com](mailto:geholmes52@gmail.com).

Meeting Minutes	page 2
President’s Report	page 3
Calendar	page 3
Marvin Masters Tribute	page 4
30th Reunion Report	page 5
Great Backyard Bird Count	page 5
February Field Trip Report	page 7
March Field Trip	page 8
Duck Stamps	page 9
Membership Form	Last Page

### March Presentation



Mark Morgenstern of Morning Star Prairie Plants will be giving the March presentation. He will discuss native plants. He will also have native plants and seeds for sale.

**It’s time to pay dues!**

## Meeting Minutes February 2023



LTVBC Meeting – February 9, 2023  
Minutes

1. Welcome: Meeting started at 6:30 PM
2. President: Gary Holmes called the meeting to order. Welcomed and introduced our visitors. We had 6 visitors.
3. Secretary: Renie O'Conner Minutes – Stuart Marcus moved to approve the minutes and Barbara Tilton seconded. Motion Passed!
4. Treasurers Report – Shelli Ellerbe

Checking	\$1,149.78
Income	\$130.00
Expenses	\$341.00
Ending Balance	\$938.78

Savings \$1,048.09 David Dauphin Savings account  
\$1000 will be put back into the account after the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion. Dues are due. Shelli has Duck Stamps to sell. New Stamp is Red Head Duck. \$25 Keychain \$2. Club Patches are available, as well.

### New Business

### Old Business – Gary

1. We discussed that our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion will be on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
2. Rio Grande Valley Birding Trip will be in November 2023. We need a trip coordinator.
3. We will leave for the Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge on March 27<sup>th</sup>. It was discussed that we should spend the night before somewhere maybe Columbus., because of the early morning drive to Eagle Lake to meet the wildlife officer.

### LTVBC 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

- a. A LTVBC Reunion on a Saturday- for all our past/present members and guests
  - Planning Committee
  - location, dates, publicity/invitations, refreshments
- b. Gary has been going through the records and has come up with some interesting statistics and history to share with everyone at the Reunion.
- c. Honor Jan Dauphin for the importance that David and she were to the development of the club. Gary suggested that we ask Jan to bring the hat that David used to pass the hat around to bring in funds for projects.
- d. Honor founding members and past officers
- e. Create a *LTVBC-30 Birding Team* to participate in one or more of [Texas Birding Classic](#) Tournaments
- f. Update Club scrapbook/ history
- g. Celebration Publicity and news stories

**Presentation:** Attwater Prairie Chicken – Captive-Breeding Presentation by Kelly Pardy. Gary introduced our speaker Kelly Pardy who is Supervisor of Birds at the Houston Zoo. Everyone welcomed him. He did a great job explaining about the efforts to save the Attwater Prairie Chickens. His program was the 'Attwater Prairie Chickens and the Conservation Efforts.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Lisa Holmes

## LTVBC President's Report, March 2023

by Gary Holmes

Hello Bird Club:

Our February activities were a great success! **Kelly Pardy** gave an excellent presentation over the Attwater's Prairie Chicken captive-breeding program at the Houston Zoo. The captive-breeding facility is located at NASA, hence Kelly's T-shirt with the prairie chicken in a space suit! Thanks, Kelly, for all you do for the conservation of this endangered species.

Our fieldtrip to Cattail Marsh was enjoyable with wonderful light that resulted in spectacular colors on the ducks. We actually saw two Soras!

Sadly, **Marvin Masters**, our dear friend, passed away suddenly in February. (see page 4)

The **30th reunion** on Feb 25th was a wonderful opportunity to visit with our friends and celebrate our past events and members. It was good to see Jan Dauphin and to meet her family. Thanks to everyone who attended and for all those who did the work and brought the delicious food!

The March Meeting will be on Thursday, March 9, 2023, at 6:30 We will have a presentation over *Native Plants* and a plant and seed sale by Mark Morgenstern of Morning Star Prairie Plants. You can browse his inventory at <https://morningstarprairieplants.com/inventory>. He may be able to deliver your order at the meeting.

Our March field trip is to the **Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge, Eagle Lake, on Monday, March 27, 2023**. The refuge staff will take us to the lek to observe the booming birds. We are limited to 20 participants - reserve your spot now. This is a unique opportunity to see an Attwater's Prairie Chicken on the Texas Gulf coast.

It is time for our annual Swallow-tail Hawk watch. We would like everyone to post their **first-of-the-season Swallow-tailed Kite (STKI) sighting** on the LTVBC Facebook page. Usually the kites arrive about mid-March so keep your eyes on the skies.

Let us know if you will go on the Prairie chicken field trip and when you see your first-of-the-season Swallow-tailed Kite.

Gary

## LTVBC Event Calendar - Always subject to change

Day/Date	Time	Event	Location	Speaker	Notes
Thursday, March 9, 2023	6:30 PM	Meeting	FMC - Mont Belvieu	Mark Morgenstern	Native Plants
Monday, March 27, 2023		Field Trip	Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR, Eagle Lake		
April		Meeting	during field trip on 4/15/23		
Saturday, April 15, 2023		Field Trip	High Island, Bolivar, Anahuac		Big Day
April cold front		Field Trip	Sabine Woods		watch email for date
Saturday, May 13, 2023		Picnic Meeting	arrangements to be decided later		





## *Marvin Masters*

1947-2023 (age 75)



Click to view our [Tribute to Marvin](#)

Marvin was a wonderful, kind man and a dear friend. He had a great heart, a gentle disposition, and a good sense of humor. We will miss Marvin tremendously!

Marvin was a dedicated member of the LTVBC for the past 11 years and participated in over 100 activities with the club. He was unable to attend the Thursday night meetings but seldom missed a Saturday field trip. Marvin had an uncanny ability to spot Bald Eagles, which he did on many trips. Also, he was excellent in duck and hawk identification. He enjoyed our spring trips to High Island and Sabine Woods - he loved to find the “Wobblers”. Marvin was a determined bird watcher and would patiently scan with his scope until he found an obscure bird.

Marvin was eager to help with all our activities. He was always a complete gentleman, and he was loved by us all!

## 30th Anniversary Celebration

*by Margo Kirby Taylor*

Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club held a celebration of their 30th year anniversary on Saturday, February 25, 2023. Thirty-two people signed in for a fun evening of seeing old friends and sharing a meal.

An excellent slide show created by Shelli Ellerbe looped on a screen for the entire evening for viewing pictures from 1992 to 2022. The pictures highlighted the original officers and early activities associated with starting the club and continued with the numerous birding trips taken by the club over the years. Some of those trips were to local favorite sites and others were further afield, even out of the country.

A beautiful display of name tags was set up by Ceal Stirling Tomlinson, showing the 300+ tags she has created over the years, with no two tags being alike. Ceal also brought some interesting memorabilia showing her creative process for the logo used by the club. Some of her original ideas look nothing like what she and the club settled on!

The club scrapbooks were available to peruse and reminisce over.

Dinner was provided by club members and included delicious desserts.

Current club president, Gary Holmes, led a presentation which covered the history of the club and the many events the club has participated in and financially supported. Gary wrote a club history, had it printed, and provided a copy for all attendees.

Jan Dauphin was recognized along with her late husband, David Dauphin, for being instrumental in organizing the club. She graciously spoke of how much she and David enjoyed the club and were so pleased with its growth and impact on the local community and beyond. Charter board members were recognized with a certificate - Jan Dauphin, Charles Post, Ceal Stirling Tomlinson, and Barbara Tilton. Barbara then spoke about memories of working with David Dauphin and especially with how at the end of every gathering, he would take his ball cap off and pass the hat to help support the cause! In his honor and memory, Barbara borrowed an actual David Dauphin ball cap from Jan and we passed the hat, raising a total of \$695!

To finish off the evening, Shelli Ellerbe and Margo Kirby Taylor presented Gary Holmes a plaque recognizing him for his 16 years of service as president. It was an emotional moment for Gary.

Overall it was excellent evening!

GBBC- Liberty County 2023																					
<p><b>Top Participants</b> Updated ~2 hr(s) ago.</p> <p>Species Checklist</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>1 Margaret Kirby Taylor</td><td>61</td></tr> <tr><td>1 Shelli Ellerbe</td><td>61</td></tr> <tr><td>3 Paul Micallef</td><td>32</td></tr> <tr><td>3 Colette Micallef</td><td>32</td></tr> <tr><td>5 Ben Sandstrom</td><td>31</td></tr> <tr><td>6 Gary Holmes</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>6 Lisa Holmes</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>8 John Gawronski</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>9 Jenn Paige</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>10 Cynthia Bartholomew</td><td>17</td></tr> </table>	1 Margaret Kirby Taylor	61	1 Shelli Ellerbe	61	3 Paul Micallef	32	3 Colette Micallef	32	5 Ben Sandstrom	31	6 Gary Holmes	27	6 Lisa Holmes	27	8 John Gawronski	22	9 Jenn Paige	18	10 Cynthia Bartholomew	17	<p>Margo and Shelli were the top Liberty County participants with 61 species.</p> <p>We had 6 participants in Liberty County and 11 participants overall</p> <p>You can explore the results at <a href="#">GBBC Explore Data</a></p>
1 Margaret Kirby Taylor	61																				
1 Shelli Ellerbe	61																				
3 Paul Micallef	32																				
3 Colette Micallef	32																				
5 Ben Sandstrom	31																				
6 Gary Holmes	27																				
6 Lisa Holmes	27																				
8 John Gawronski	22																				
9 Jenn Paige	18																				
10 Cynthia Bartholomew	17																				

## Annual Swallow-tail Kite Watch



We would like everyone to post their **first-of-the-season Swallow-tailed Kite** sighting on the LTVBC Facebook page.



**Get your LTVBC cling-stickers at the March Meeting.**

*These beautiful 4"X 4" stickers are removable and will cling to glass or smooth metal surface. They are perfect for your fridge door or any window.*

*The **LTVBC history** will be emailed to all members and can be found on our website or Facebook page.*

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## LTVBC Birding Adventure 2023

*Rio Grande Valley (Fall 2023) 5-6 days*

*We need trip coordinators!*

## RIO GRANDE VALLEY BIRDING FESTIVAL

*Nov. 8-12, 2023 Harlingen Convention Center*

<https://www.rgvbf.org/>

The Festival will offer over 120 field trips for the five days, keynote speakers, afternoon presentations, a trade show (called Birders Bazaar), a whopping silent auction, a souvenir booth, and fabulous art and photographs from local students. Come reunite with birders from across the country – seeing old friends and making new ones. Be sure to plan your trip to arrive on Tuesday to attend the Welcome Reception Tuesday evening. Music, noshes, and sips!

Check out our 2022 Schedule for information regarding Field Trips, Photo Track, Keynote, and Seminars as well as an array of Special Events. While everyone who participates pays a registration fee, you have the option of purchasing a Kiskadee Pass (an all-event pass that gets you into the talks) during online registration for savings or buying tickets separately at the door. All field trips are priced according to entry fees/vehicles used/# guides allotted.

[2022 Updated Schedule](#), the 2023 schedule will be similar.



LTVBC Field Trip  
*Cattail Marsh Beaumont, Feb 18, 2023*

It was a cold, clear morning at Cattail Marsh. The ducks were plentiful with beautiful colors. In the early morning light, the Green-wing Teal's head stripe was actually purple (I have never seen it reflect this color).

Later in the morning, the heads had the normal green color. Lisa heard several Sora as we walked the levee and we continued to search until we saw two! Also, Bald Eagles were feeding eaglets in their nest.



It was a nice day with a meal at Tia Juanita's in Winnie. Little did we know, it would be our last trip and meal with our dear friend Marvin, as he passed away the next day. We had ten participants: Barbara Tilton, Ceal & Jim Tomlinson, Billie Brinkley, Joan Risinger, Lisa & Gary Holmes, Stuart Marcus, Joe Hall, and Marvin Masters. Also, we had three non-LTVBC birders join us for part of the day.

We identified 50 birds including Ruddy Duck, Ring-necked Duck, and Bufflehead.

See complete checklist at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S129119145>



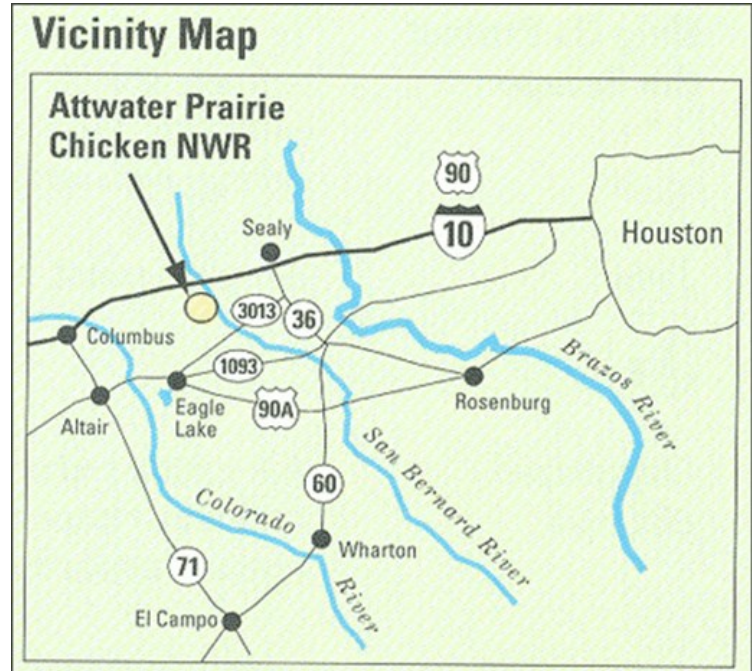
**LTVBC Field Trip**  
**Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge, Eagle Lake**  
*Monday, March 27, 2023*

**Meet at Visitors Center at 6:30 am**  
*Sunrise is at 7:17 CDT*

*Bring: Walkie-talkies, Snacks, Lunch, Chairs, Water*

Distance from Liberty: 106 miles  
 Drive time: 1 hour 49 minutes

**HOURS:**  
 Refuge trails: Daily, sunrise to sunset



The refuge staff will take us to the lek to observe the booming birds. We need to be at the refuge headquarters at 6:30 am, will board the vans at 6:45 am. We have a limit of 20 participants.

Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge, Eagle Lake		
<i>Saturday, March 27, 2023, at 6:30am</i>		
Bring- Walkie- talkies, Snacks, Lunch, Chairs, Water		
#	Name	Phone
1	Lisa H	
2	Gary H	713-366-1722
3	Jim T	
4	Ceal T	
5	Billie B	
6	Joan R	
7	Margo T	
8	Shelli E	
9		
10		
Limit 20 participants		





**2022-2023 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp**

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

**Celebrating our Waterfowl Hunting Heritage**  
Waterfowl hunters have a long history of contributing to wildlife habitat conservation. Perpetuate access for all to explore wildlife by purchasing Duck Stamps and enjoying the outdoors.

**MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING AND CONSERVATION STAMP**  
\$25  
VOID AFTER JUNE 30, 2023  
REDHEADS  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Artist: James Hautman, Redheads ©

If applicable, sign your stamp.

**2022-23 Duck Stamps are here!**  
**Preserve habitat for birds and other wildlife.**  
**Get yours at the next meeting.**  
**\$25.00**

## Duck Stamp 2022-2023

James Hautman (1964- )

In 1990, at age 25, James Hautman became the youngest ever to win the prestigious Federal Duck Stamp Contest. The 2022-2023 Federal Duck Stamp Contest marks his sixth win. James also won the contest in 1990, 1995, 1999, 2010, and 2016. In addition to his five Federal Duck Stamp wins, he has painted more than 20 state conservation stamp designs and the 1990 Australian duck stamp. In 1991 he was named Ducks Unlimited International Artist of the Year and recently won the award again in 2010 with his painting "First Light- Canvasbacks". In 2002, he was commissioned by the United Nations to paint a series of birds for their endangered species stamp collection. Publications such as Time magazine, USA Today and The Wall Street Journal have featured articles on his work. Jim's artwork has been displayed in the Oval Office of the White House, the Smithsonian Institution, the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, the United Nations and in public and private collections throughout the world. (from <https://www.fws.gov/media/duck-stamp-2022-2023>)

Find out why buying a duck stamp is important at  
<https://www.fws.gov/service/duck-stamps>

***“Just 20 percent of birders had purchased duck stamps within the past two years”.*** \*

\*Shiple et al. [“Do birdwatchers buy the duck stamp?”](#) *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*, 2018



# LOWER TRINITY VALLEY BIRD CLUB

## Membership Information

[Check us out on Facebook!](#)

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

**It's time to start paying  
2023 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