



THE WOOD DUCK



Newsletter #268

Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club

April 2023

www.LowerTrinityValleyBirdClub.org

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PO Box 6051 Liberty, Texas 77575

LTVBC Big Day April 2023

The annual “Big Day” of the LOWER TRINITY VALLEY BIRD CLUB will be held on Sunday, April 16, 2023 starting at 6:30 a.m. at White Memorial Park, located on Hwy 61 just south of I-10 in Chambers County.

The trip is open to the public. We welcome novice and experienced birders.

The “Big Day” is the time we visit local birding hotspots and identify as many bird species as possible. We will start with a short meeting/ birding session at White Park then head for the Anahuac NWR and High Island sanctuaries to view warblers, other spring migrants, and the water bird rookery. We will also visit Rollover Pass/Bolivar for shorebirds. There is an entrance fee at the High Island Sanctuaries and we will eat a picnic lunch.

If you have any questions, please contact President Gary Holmes at

713-366-1722 or e-mail him at geholmes52@gmail.com or visit the LTVBC Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/98618981435/>

See page 3 about our
Birdathon Team.

Support our team with a
donation.

**This is the last newsletter
until September.
We will have no Thursday
meetings until September
2023.**

Meeting Minutes



March 9, 2023

The Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club met Thursday, March 9, 2023, at the First Methodist Church in Mont Belvieu, Texas. President Gary Holmes called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Eighteen members were present. Renie O'Connor made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2023, meeting. Shelli Ellerbe seconded, all agreed and the motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance in the checking account is \$1,093.78. The current balance in the savings account is \$2,048.17. Joe Hall made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Lisa Holmes seconded, all agreed, and the motion was approved.

Old Business:

The 30th Anniversary Celebration turned out great. Everyone that worked putting the party together did a fantastic job.

The Rio Grande Birding Trip will be November 8-12, 2023. We will have more information at future meetings.

Monday, March 27, is the field trip to Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge in Eagle Lake. Please let Gary know if you are interested.

We need to develop a presentation about Bird City Texas certification for Dayton, Liberty, Anahuac, Mont Belvieu and Baytown. We need volunteers. If interested, please contact Gary Holmes.

Last chance to buy Duck Stamps. Please contact Shelli Ellerbe for purchase of this year's Duck Stamp.

New Business:

We need to update our mailing of the newsletter to include the Sam Houston Regional Library.

Joe Hall made a motion to donate \$100.00 to the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory in honor of Marvin Masters who recently passed away. Lisa Holmes seconded, all agreed and the motion was approved.

Speaker Presentation: Mark Morgenstern of Morning Star Prairie Plants gave a wonderful presentation on native plants. He also had native plants for sale following his presentation.

Since there was no more old or new business to discuss, Shelli Ellerbe made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gay Wehrman seconded, all agreed, and the meeting was adjourned.

Renie O'Connor, Secretary

President's Message

by Gary Holmes

Hello Bird Club:

Spring is here! The Swallow-tailed Kites and Northern Parula Warblers have been back at Champion Lake for three weeks. Lisa and I heard our first Prothonotary Warbler on April 2nd. We are looking forward to a great migration season.

The LTVBC was very active in the last month:

1. We enjoyed a native plant presentation at our March Meeting by Mark Morgenstern. Mark gave an interesting talk over native plants and had plants for us to purchase.
2. We staffed an information booth at the Liberty Jubilee – we met over 300 people. Many children and adults enjoyed our bird ID game and received club and birding class information. Helping at the jubilee were Stuart M., Shelli E., Margo T., Cindy R., and Gary H.
3. Our field trip to Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge was a success with ten participants. (See article)
4. Baytown Birding Challenge with Baytown Christian Environmental Science Students. Lisa, Shelli and Margo assisted the BCA students in identifying 36 species for the Baytown Birding Challenge.

Baytown Christian Academy Environmental Science Students.

The LTVBC provided binoculars and birding expertise to make the challenge a success!



In April - May, we will have three activities:

1. Our "LTVBC Big Day" and March Meeting on Saturday, April 15, 2023. We will start the day with a short meeting at White Park then spend the day birding Anahuac NWR, High Island Sanctuaries, and Bolivar.
2. Sabine Woods "Wobbler Day" will be on the week of April 22-29, 2022. We will pick the day that has the best weather for warblers. On a good day, Sabine Woods is magical! We are referring to it as Wobbler Day in honor of Marvin Masters. Marvin's accent made warbler sound like wobbler.
3. The 2023 LTVBC Picnic will be at Lisa & Gary Holmes' home on a Saturday in early May. The picnic will be a wonderful time to visit and view the birds at Champion Lake. We will introduce our 2022-2023 plans for our speakers, fieldtrips, weekend trip and 2023 birding adventure.

Join us for birding fun, **Gary**

LTVBC Event Calendar - Always subject to change

Day/Date	Time	Event	Location	Speaker	Notes
April		Meeting	during field trip on 4/16/23		
Sunday, April 16, 2023		Field Trip	High Island, Bolivar, Anahuac		Big Day
TBD by weather		Field Trip	Sabine Woods		watch email for date
Sunday, May 14, 2023			"Global Big Day"		
TBD		Picnic Meeting	hosted by Lisa & Gary Holmes		
Summer Activities					
Starting Tuesday, June 13, 2023		Introduction to Birding Class, Tue/Thur, 6 sessions			
June and July		JJ Mayes Bird Survey, Thursday evenings			

BIRDATHON 2023 COMPETITIVE TEAM

LOWER TRINITY VALLEY BIRD CLUB LADY TWITCHERS

Birdathon is Houston Audubon's community fundraiser where teams of all skill levels are encouraged to get out in nature and count birds while enjoying nature and supporting Houston Audubon's work in the protection of birds through habitat restoration, surveying and monitoring, nature education, supporting bird-friendly communities, and advocacy efforts.

Our team will head out one day in the coming week to bird from before sunrise until after sunset. We will make it to many of our local birding spots, head for High Island, and drive down the coast searching for as many species of bird as we can find.

We need your support to help us make Birdathon a successful fundraiser for Houston Audubon. **Please consider donating to our team!**

Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club Lady Twitchers include: [Barbara Tilton](#), [Shelli Shivers Ellerbe](#), [Margaret Kirby Taylor](#), and [Lisa Sheppard Holmes](#)!

Please donate to our LTVBC team this year. Thank you for your support!

*[click here to **Make your pledge!**](#)*



March Field Trip

Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge

March 27, 2023



Our field trip to Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge was a success. Despite the foggy morning, we saw four prairie chickens and viewed one male displaying and heard his booming. The two-hour van tour with the refuge staff was informative and enjoyable.

Our best birds were **Greater Prairie-Chicken (Attwater's)**-4, **Common Ground Dove**-3, **Upland Sandpiper**-22, and **Eastern Meadowlark**-30. The prairie chickens were life birds for seven of our group.

Participants were **Jim & Ceal Tomlinson, Gary & Lisa Holmes, Billie Brinkley, Joan Reisinger, Cindy Riggins, Paul Fagala, Margo Taylor and Shelli Ellerbe.**



The 2023 High Island Patch features the Northern Waterthrush.

ADMISSION

Purchase a patch for unlimited access to all High Island sanctuaries for the entire year! Patches are \$30 and can be purchased in advance online or on-site. Day passes are sold on-site for \$10/person. Free admission for children, students, and High Island residents. (Houston Audubon membership does not include access to the High Island sanctuaries. We appreciate your support.

Peak spring migration season is from mid-March to mid-May. Numbers are highest during a "fallout", which sometimes occurs with a fast-moving cold front.. Be sure to check eBird for the latest bird sightings at the sanctuaries!

Links:

[High Island Bird Checklist](#)
[Spring Coastal Migration and Fallouts](#)
[The Rookery at Smith Oaks](#)
[eBird: Boy Scout Woods](#)
[eBird: Smith Oaks](#)
[eBird: S.E. Gast Red Bay](#)
[eBird: Eubanks Woods](#)

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.



<https://ebird.org/news/global-big-day-2023#:~:text=Be%20a%20part%20of%20birding's,birds%20you%20find%20with%20eBird.>

Be a part of birding's biggest team! [Global Big Day](#) is an annual celebration of the birds around you. No matter where you are, join us virtually on 13 May, help celebrate [World Migratory Bird Day](#), and share the birds you find with eBird.

Participating is easy—you can even be part of Global Big Day from home. If you can spare 5 or 10 minutes, report your bird observations to eBird online or with our [free eBird Mobile app](#). If you have more time, submit several checklists of birds throughout the day. You never know what you might spot. Your observations help us better understand global bird populations through products like these [animated abundance maps](#) brought to you by eBird Science.

Last year, Global Big Day brought birders together virtually from more countries than ever before. More than 51,000 people from 201 countries submitted 132,000 checklists with eBird, setting [new world records](#) for a single day of birding. Will you help us surpass last year's records?

How to participate

Get an eBird account: eBird is a worldwide bird checklist program used by millions of birders. It's what allows us to compile everyone's sightings into a single massive Global Big Day list—while at the same time collecting the data to help scientists better understand birds. [Sign up here](#). It's 100% free from start to finish.

- **Watch birds on 13 May:** It's that simple. You don't need to be a bird expert or go out all day long, even 10 minutes of birding from home counts. Global Big Day runs from midnight to midnight in your local time zone. You can report what you find from anywhere in the world.

Enter what you see and hear in eBird: You can enter your sightings [via our website](#) or download the [free eBird Mobile app](#) to make submitting lists even easier. Please enter your checklists before 16 May to be included in our initial results announcement.

Watch the sightings roll in: During the day, follow along with sightings from more than 200 countries in real-time on our [Global Big Day page](#).

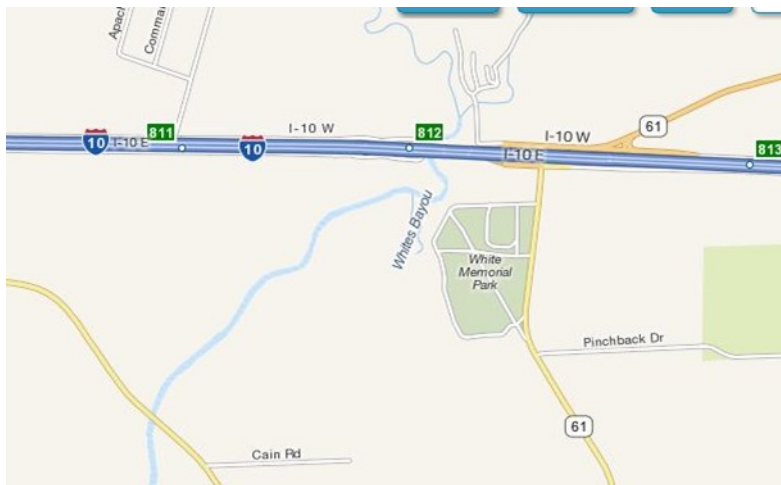
LTVBC “Big Day”: April 16, 2023
White Park/ Anahuac NWR/ High Island/ Bolivar Sanctuaries

Season Patches - \$30 Day Passes \$10

Bring: binoculars, Spotting Scopes, water, mosquito repellent, hand-held radios. lunch, and snacks for the evening

Meet at White Memorial Park at 6:30AM for short meeting/birding session, carpooling, and exchange of cell numbers.

Directions to White Memorial Park: Take I-10 East towards Beaumont exit on ramp 812 and turn right on Hwy 61 south; after about .5 miles on Hwy 61 turn right on White Park Road, we will meet in the parking lot on the right.



Be sure to review your warblers before the field trip!

Anahuac NWR: 7:30 AM - quick stop around Shoveler’s Pond and the Bird Blind

Boy Scout Woods (High Island): 8:30 AM - meet at the kiosk.

11:30 Lunch- bring lunch

Bolivar Flats/ Rollover Pass: Noon (shorebird walk)

Smith Oaks (High Island): 3:00 PM- 4:30PM meet in the picnic area at the end of the parking lot.

Dinner in Winnie

It will be a long day, be sure to bring snacks for the afternoon. Of course, you do not have to stay the entire day.

Meet at Sabine Woods at 8:00 AM

Watch your email for a date.

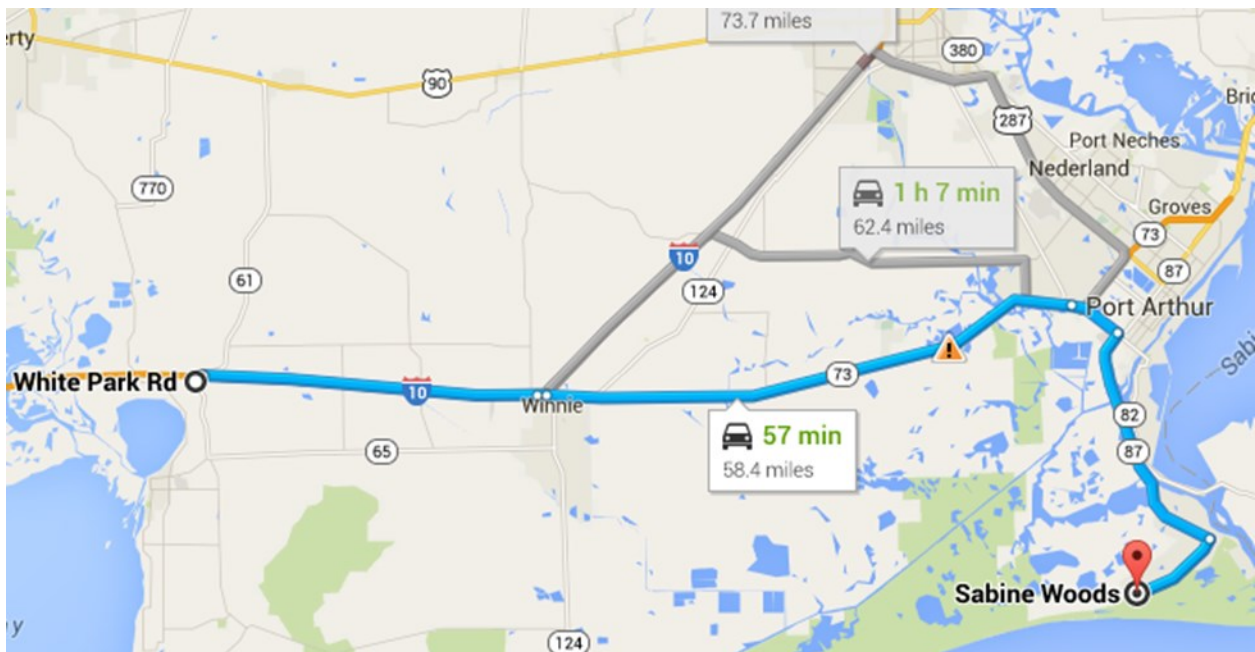
Bring: binoculars, spotting scopes, water, mosquito repellent, lunch

Free to Texas Ornithological Society members.

Non-members may purchase a 30 day pass good for all Texas Ornithological Society sanctuaries at the entrance kiosk.

Ownership: Sabine Woods is a bird sanctuary owned by the Texas Ornithological Society. Birders are welcome at all times.

Habitat: The main woods consist of three conjoined sections, with ponds in the two westernmost sections. Large oaks predominate, but there are also large mulberry trees in the center section, and many areas of thick undergrowth. The northern part of the sanctuary tends to be much wetter, but has some areas of low thick growth. There is a pond in the open area in the extreme northwest of the sanctuary. There is also an area of medium sized trees in the southeast corner. A large number of oak trees were planted about 1991 in some of the open areas in the southern half.





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