



THE WOOD DUCK



Newsletter #234

Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club

April 2018

www.LowerTrinityValleyBirdClub.org

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PO Box 6051 Liberty, Texas 77575

Editor: Shelli Ellerbe

LOWER TRINITY VALLEY BIRD CLUB "Big Day"

The annual "Big Day" of the LOWER TRINITY VALLEY BIRD CLUB will be held on Saturday, April 14, 2018 starting at 6:30 a.m. at White Memorial Park 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. We will eat lunch at a local church in High Island or picnic.

If you have any questions please contact President Gary Holmes at 281-576-0574 or e-mail him at gholmes52@gmail.com or visit the LTVBC Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/98618981435/>

Meeting Minutes March 8, 2018



The Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club met Thursday, March 8, 2018, at the First Liberty National Bank Corner in Liberty, Texas. President Gary Holmes called the meeting to order at 6:30PM. Twelve members were present at this month's meeting. Stuart Marcus made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2018, meeting as published in the March *Wood Duck* #233. Joe Hall seconded, all agreed, and the motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Current checking account balance is \$1,901.74. This amount includes \$20.00 received for dues. The balance in the David Dauphin Memorial account is \$1,170.57 which includes a \$50.00 donation and \$.13 in interest. Lisa Holmes made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted. David Knutson seconded, all agreed and the motion was accepted.

Old Business:

- The Maine trip will be June 12-19. Deadline for signing up for this trip is March 9th. If you are still interested, please call Gary Holmes or David Sarkozi.

- Mont Belvieu Parks and Recreation will have their 3rd Annual Spring Outdoor Celebration on April 21, 2018 from 12 noon to 5:00PM. We will share a booth with Trinity River Refuge. There will be more discussion at the April meeting.
- The Feathered Friends Art Contest is under way. Judging is going on now. All entries are on display at the Refuge Headquarters.

New Business:

- The March field trip is March 17th. We will be going to Peveto Woods Sanctuary and Sabine National Wildlife Refuge in Cameron, Louisiana.

Speaker Presentation: Paul Gregg gave a wonderful presentation entitled "A trip to and in the Guadalupe Mountains, NOT the River!". He had beautiful slides and great information about the Mountains.

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

Renie O'Connor, Secretary

**Peveto Woods Field Trip
March 17, 2018**

Reported by Joe Hall



Seeking early spring migrants in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, eight LTVBC members ventured east on St. Patrick's Day and witnessed a faunal collection to rival the heydays of the Great Plains American Bison or the Serengeti Wildebeest. Estimates ranged from 1000 to 50,000 birds with identification of the species or species limited by atmospheric conditions and the unavailability of the Hubbell telescope to assist in the distant viewing.

Rafts of ducks floating out past the breakers stretched along the Louisiana shoreline from horizon to horizon.

Best educated guess was that the myriad of ducks were predominately Lesser Scaup with pure WAGs (Wild Ass Guess) as to any other varieties of diving ducks feeding on Gulf Coast seafood.

There were other notable birds that day including a Black-Chinned Hummingbird and a first-of-its-kind Red-Winged Blackbird begging like a Grackle in a parking lot at the Wetland Walkway on the Sabine NWR, but the Bluebill panorama stole the show. Participants were: **Barbara Tilton, Ceal Stirling, Rene O'Connor, Joe Hall, Marvin Masters, Stuart Marcus, Lisa Holmes and Gary Holmes.**

For the complete species list, visit the Peveto Woods hotspot on eBird and view the list posted by Lisa.





Young Gators at Sabine NWR

President's Report

By Gary Holmes

Hello Bird Club:

Spring is here, and all our wonderful birds have returned!

We had a great meeting on Thursday, March 8, 2018. Paul Gregg gave an interesting presentation over Guadalupe Mountain NP and had some beautiful images of the park.

We have birding opportunities each weekend this month. I hope you can attend a few. We will not have a meeting at the FLNB Corner this month; instead, we will have our **annual "Big Day"** (see field trip details).

LTVBC birding activities in April:

1. Saturday, April 7, 2018- **Sabine Woods** (a possible fall-out day due to the cold front) meet at Sabine Woods at 8:00am
2. Saturday, April 14, 2018 will be our **"Big Day"** to High Island, Bolivar, Anahuac- we should identify over 120 species!
3. Saturday, April 21, 2018- **Outdoor Celebration** in Mont Belvieu (Noon- 5pm) The LTVBC will share booth with Trinity River NWR
4. Saturday, April 28, 2018 or Sunday April 29, 2018 (Depending on the cold fronts.) We will go to **High Island or Sabine Woods** to look for late season migrants.

Also, this spring, Shelli will host the **LTVBC picnic** (date to be determined).

Hope to see you at some of the activities,

Gary



Bird Tales

From Joe Hall: While relaxing on the porch after a generous helping of fried oysters on March 10, a commotion of bird noises in the pines at my aunt's temporary home in Anahuac drew the attention of the small group present. Dire shrieks emanating from the trees drew in several mockingbirds who disappeared into the foliage. The shrieks continued and a tangled bundle of feathers fell into the yard and thrashed around. A mockingbird flew down to the ground and began attacking the bundle of feathers accompanied by a din of bird distress calls from the ground and the surrounding trees. Curious as to what the commotion and bundle of feathers entailed, I left the porch and walked over. The attacking mockingbird flew off as I approached and the bundle of feathers resolved itself in to a Merlin (MERL) holding a mockingbird in it's claws. Noticing that he was no longer alone in the yard, the Merlin then released the mockingbird, which promptly departed for the depths of the foliage of a cedar tree and the Merlin, now unencumbered by a recalcitrant mockingbird, skimmed off low to the ground and across the road. Mockingbirds continued to shriek in the cedar tree for several minutes until the Merlin returned and made a lazy pass over the cedar tree, at which point silence ensued. The Merlin was very small and dove-gray and although very fierce-looking had his hands full with one mockingbird in his grasp and another endeavoring by force to rescue his companion.

The 2018 LTVBC Adventure Maine, June 12-19, 2018

The trip is limited to 10 participants

\$400 deposit by March 9th

Balance of \$400 due May 12th.

Air fare, hotel and meals are extra.

Total cost \$2,000- \$2,500.

Your "Bird Tales" belong here.

Share your adventures!

shellerbe@gmail.com

geholmes52@gmail.com

2016-2018 LTVBC Officers

President: Gary Holmes

Vice-president: David Knutson

Secretary: Renie O'Connor

Treasurer: Shelli Ellerbe

Newsletter Editor: Shelli Ellerbe

Programs: Stuart Marcus & Lisa Holmes

HIGH ISLAND SPRING- 2018

<https://houstonaudubon.org/sanctuaries/high-island/>

The kiosk at Boy Scout Woods opens on Friday, March 23, 2018 and closes on Sunday May 6, 2018.

Birding Walks: The Tropical Birding guides will lead three bird walks a day, five days a week (every day except Tuesday and Wednesday) in our High Island sanctuaries and surrounding hotspots. The walks begin on **Friday, April 6** and end on **Monday, April 30**. The 8:30 AM walk is at Boy Scout Woods. The Noon shorebird walk meets at the gate for Boy Scout Woods and visits various sites for shorebirds and other coastal birds. The 4:00 walk starts at the Old Mexico Rd parking lot at Smith Oaks and searches for warblers in the woods followed by a quick circuit of the Rookery.

Land Sea and Sky at High Island: April 13-15; April 20-22; April 26-28: This is a great opportunity to try out telescopes and binoculars. If you decide to buy some new optics, a portion of your purchase price will go to Houston Audubon. A Houston-based company, Land Sea & Sky has provided optics sales and service since 1940. We are grateful for their partnership with Houston Audubon.

Bird-friendly Plant Sale: If you want to attract birds to your yard, plan to visit the annual High Island Bird-friendly Plant Sale at Boy Scout Woods. The sale starts on April 1 and lasts until there are no more plants.

April BBQ Lunches: The St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in High Island (1308 Weeks Ave.) will again be selling those delicious BBQ lunches at the church every Saturday in April from 11 AM until the food is gone. The lunches include BBQ and all the fixin's for \$12 per plate.

High Island patches are highly prized and have become collectibles over the years among visiting birders as well as Houston Audubon members. You can order online the 2018 patch which features a Prairie Warbler or buy it at our headquarters at Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary.

TOS Partnership: A new partnership in High Island will make it easier to visit both Texas Ornithological Society (TOS) and Houston Audubon sanctuaries. Purchase of a day pass or annual patch from Houston Audubon will provide passage to the ever-popular Hooks Woods on First St.

Sanctuary System

Houston Audubon has 4 sanctuaries at High Island. Boy Scout Woods is the headquarters, which is staffed by volunteers during peak spring migration season from mid-March to mid-May. Smith Oaks is the largest sanctuary and home to the Rookery. The Rookery is fascinating to visit throughout the year. **The High Island sanctuaries are fee sites.** The fee helps defray the costs of maintenance, utilities and improvements for the entire Houston Audubon sanctuary system. **A day pass costs \$8, or for \$30 a patch may be purchased which gives you an unlimited number of admissions to all High Island sanctuaries for one year.** Children under 18 years old are free. High Island residents are also free (proof of residency such as a driver's license is needed).

The kiosk at Boy Scout Woods should be your first stop during spring season (March 24-May 8, 2017). There you can purchase a day pass or patch and find out about the latest sightings. Our friendly volunteers are glad to assist you with directions and provide help with which areas may be best suited for your interests.

Tropical Birding Partnership

For the past 11 years during spring migration season, the professional guides at **Tropical Birding** have volunteered their services, enabling us to offer free birding walks at High Island and Bolivar Flats.

Coming Up....

2017-2018 Field Trip Schedule	
<i>Day/Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
Saturday, April 14, 2018	High Island, Bolivar, Anahuac
Saturday, April 21, 2018	Spring Outdoor Celebration in Mont Belvieu (12-5pm)
Saturday, April 28, 2018	Sabine Woods or High Island
2018 LTVBC Adventure - Maine (June 12-19, 2018)	

2017-2018 Meeting Schedule	
Day/Date	Event
No Thursday meeting in April	"LTVBC Big Day"
No Thursday meeting in May	Picnic

Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club



↖ Click here

Spring Outdoor Celebration in Mont Belvieu

April 21, 2018

Noon to 5pm

The **Spring Outdoor Celebration** in Mont Belvieu is April 21, 2018 from NOON to 5pm. The event is being coordinated by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and is a good opportunity to introducing birding, the **LTVBC and the Trinity River Refuge** in Mont Belvieu.

We have reserved a booth for the LTVBC and the **Trinity River NWR** for the event.

We will:

1. Give out LTVBC and TRR information
2. Have bird quizzes/bird bingo- candy to winners
3. Introduction to Birding class again this summer?
4. Invite people to our JJ Mayes summer bird surveys
5. Talk with prospective members
6. Demonstrate Spotting and field guides

We will need to bring:

1. LTVBC and FOTRR Banners
2. Bid quiz/bingo cards
3. LTVBC and TRR Information sheets

Meet at 11am to set-up



The poster for the Spring Outdoor Celebration features a red banner at the top with the text "37th Annual Community Event". Below this, the main title "SPRING OUTDOOR CELEBRATION" is displayed in large, bold, red letters within a red-bordered box. The event details are presented in two colored boxes: a pink box on the left stating "SATURDAY APRIL 21 12PM-5PM" and a blue box on the right stating "MONT BELVIEU CITY PARK 10000 Eagle Drive". Below these are three smaller boxes: a green one for "FREE EVENT DOOR PRIZES", a yellow one for "FISHING KAYAKING ARCHERY", and a blue one for "ROCKCLIMB AIRGUN & MORE FUN". At the bottom, there is a row of four small images showing people participating in various outdoor activities: a person fishing, a person kayaking, a person archery, and a person rock climbing. The footer of the poster includes the text "PRESENTED BY:" followed by logos for "Texas Parks and Wildlife" and "Trinity River NWR", and the website "WWW.MONTBELVIEU.PRES.NET".

LTVBC “Big Day”: April 14, 2018
White Park/ Anahuac NWR/ High Island/ Bolivar Sanctuaries

Season Patches - \$30 Day Passes \$7

Bring: binoculars, Spotting Scopes, water, mosquito repellent, hand-held radios, Lunch or money to buy barbecue at FUMC- High Island, 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 left.

Note-Be sure to take the exit ramp 812 before Turtle Bayou when exiting I-10. The feeder road is complete and does cross Turtle Bayou. If you wait to exit passed Turtle Bayou, you will have to go about 5 miles for the next exit!!

Be sure to review your warblers before the field trip!

Skillern Tract (Anahuac NWR): 7:30 AM.....a quick stop to scan the fields and check the tree line

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

We will take an early lunch at 11:00AM at St. Matthew's Methodist Church or bring your lunch

Bolivar Flats/ Rollover Pass: Noon (shorebird walk),.....meet the guide at Rollover Flats

Smith Oaks (High Island): 3:00 PM- 5:30PM.....meet in the picnic area at the end of the parking lot. Guided walk at 4PM. These walks are to look for migrants and check on the progress of the nesting season in the Rookery.

Dinner in Winnie. On the way home, we will stop at **Shoveler Pond** (Anahuac NWR) to pick up a few more birds. 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.

LTVBC Field Trip *Sabine Woods: April 28 or 29, 2018*

Meet at White Memorial Park at 6:30 AM for carpooling and exchange of cell numbers

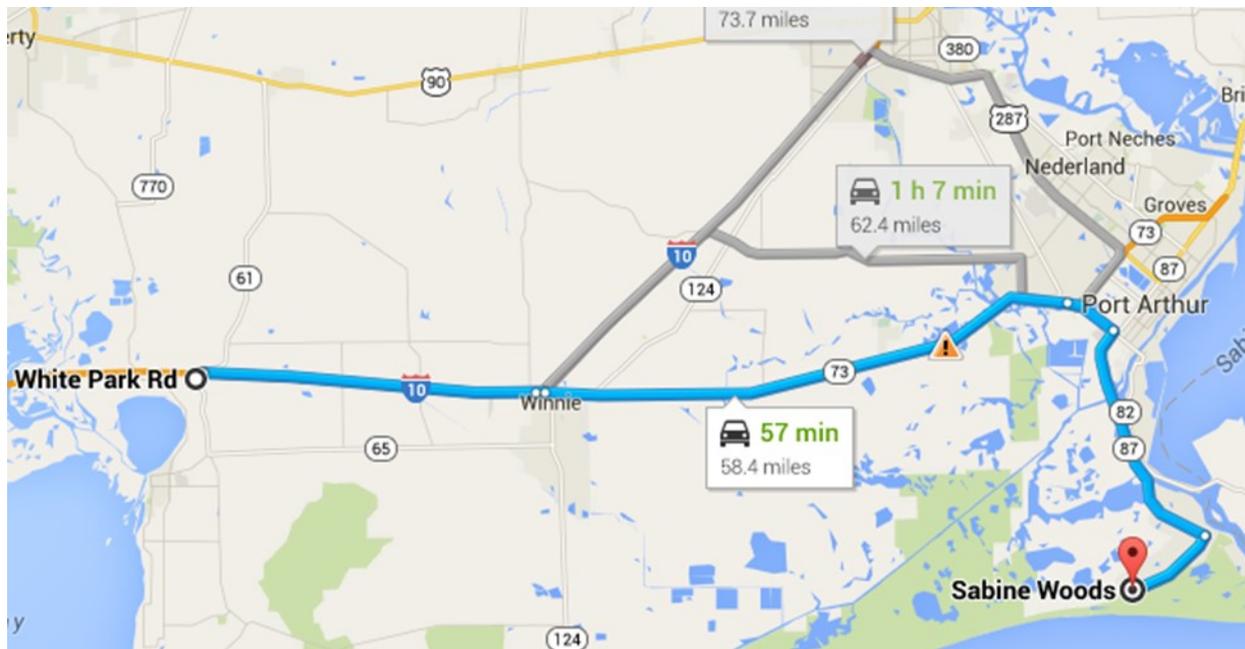
Bring: binoculars, spotting scopes, water, mosquito repellent, lunch

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/>

Would you like to get your
newsletter by email?

Let us know at:

geholmes52@gmail.com

You'll get full color pictures and live links.

Give it a try!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

___ New Member ___ Renewing Member

___ Donation \$ _____

___ Donation to D. Dauphin Memorial Fund
\$ _____

___ Update my information

Send newsletter by ___ email or ___ mail

It's time to pay dues for 2017-18. Please make checks payable to LTVBC.	___ Student Membership	\$10.00
	___ Individual Membership	\$20.00
	___ Family Membership	\$35.00
	___ Sponsor Membership	\$50.00

Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club
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