



THE WOOD DUCK



Newsletter #237

Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club

November 2018

www.LowerTrinityValleyBirdClub.org

~

PO Box 6051 Liberty, Texas 77575

November Meeting

Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club



Thursday, November 8, 2018

6:30 pm

The FLNB Corner

1822 Sam Houston Avenue, Liberty

Directions: From Highway 90, turn north on Travis St., between Kentucky Fried Chicken and Whataburger, and cross over the railroad tracks. The FLNB Corner is at the intersection of Sam Houston Ave. and Travis St., across from First Liberty National Bank.

Be sure to come early for our “Birder’s Chat” time. If you have any questions, call President Gary Holmes at 281-576-0574, or e-mail him at geholmes52@gmail.com.

Our speaker on November 8, 2018 will be **Brian Cain**, PhD. His presentation is titled: "*From Scales to Feathers: To be a Bird*". It will cover the adaptations that birds have developed to cope with environmental conditions in order to inhabit every habitat on earth.

Dr. Cain received a Bachelor and Master of Science degree from Texas A&I University in Kingsville, TX in 1965 and 1968, respectively, and a PhD from the University of Illinois in 1972. His interests were in the natural history of animals and their physiological response to their environment.

He worked as an Assistant Professor at Texas A&M University in the Wildlife Department from 1972 to 1978 teaching ecology, wildlife management, and physiological ecology. He also directed 17 Masters Degree students, and 4 PhD students. In 1978 he joined the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a Contaminant Specialist at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Maryland. He moved in 1982 to the Ecological Services Field Office in Clear Lake. His major duties included evaluation of Hazardous Waste Sites, Pesticide Applications, Petroleum Product Manufacturing and Oil and Hazardous Material Spills, as these related to fish and wildlife health. He coordinated the Abnormal Frog Survey for the Fish and Wildlife Service in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona before retiring in 2007.

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Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club



Click here

It's time to pay dues!

President's Report

By Gary Holmes

Hello Bird Club:

Our birding plans for the fall were mostly cancelled by bad weather on the weekends - the only thing that went as scheduled was the **Big Sit**. Lisa's and my best birding moment so far this fall was the two **river otters** taking a dust bath on the JJ Mayes Levee Road - we watched them for over five minutes!



Lisa has seen **Wood Storks** several mornings behind our house. The lake is high so the storks were within 80 feet of the house - she could hear the clacking of their beaks!

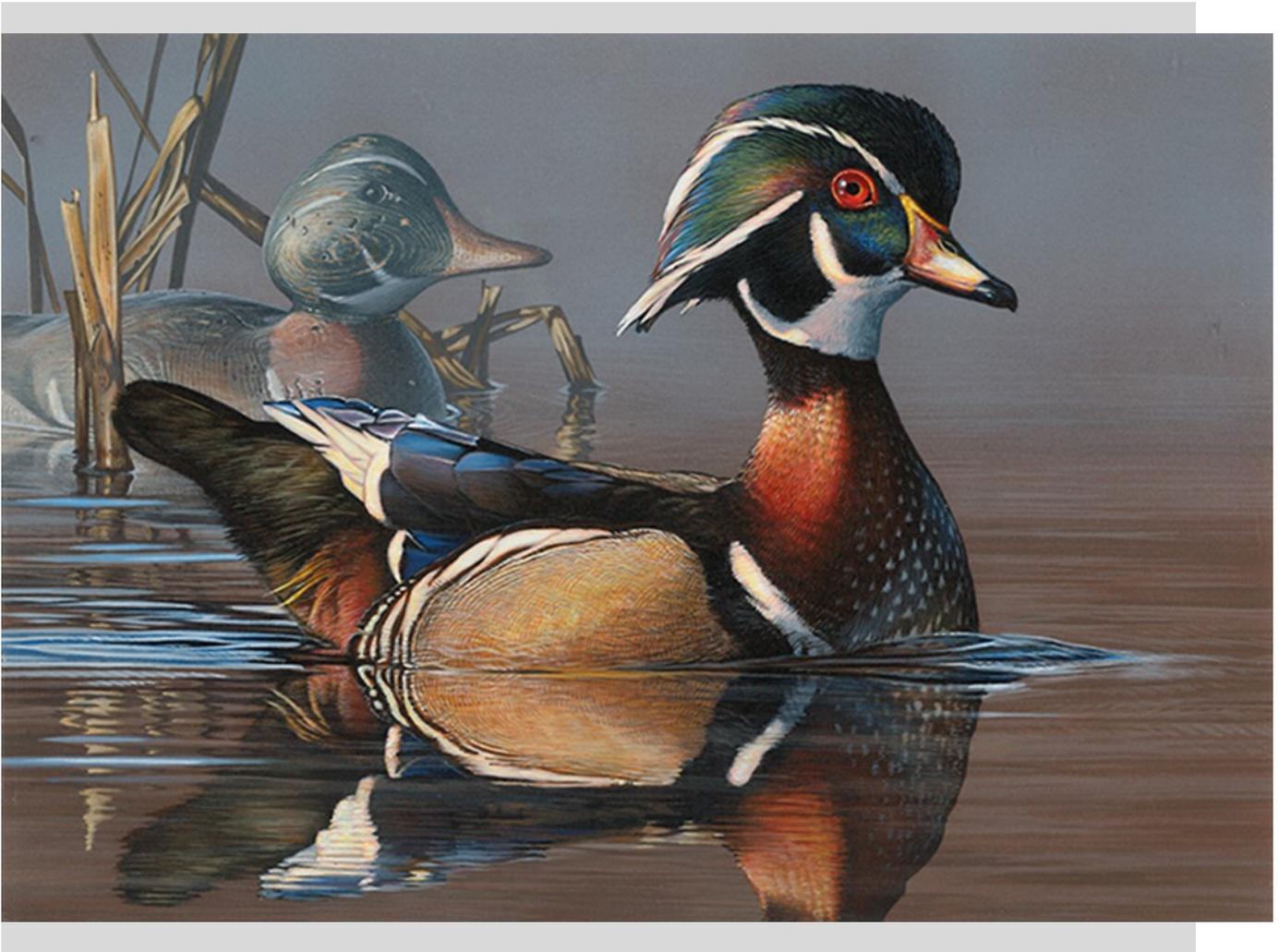
Our speaker on Nov. 8, 2018 will be **Brian Cain**, PhD. His presentation is titled: "*From Scales to Feathers: To be a Bird*". It will cover the adaptations that birds have developed to cope with environmental conditions in order to inhabit every habitat on earth. Our LTVBC September field trip will be to **Sheldon Lake State Park** on Saturday, November 17, 2018, (see article in this newsletter). I hope we have a great turn-out for both events.

Notice the two articles in this newsletter about duck stamps. A study found that "**Just 20 percent of the birders had purchased duck stamps within the past two years.**" We need to do better in supporting this important conservation effort. Also, note that there is now an **October Big Day** on the same weekend as the **Big Sit** - perhaps we can do both next year?

See you at our meeting and field trip.....

Gary

Scot Storm Wins 2018 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest



On September 15, a panel of five judges chose an acrylic painting of a wood duck and decoy by Scot Storm as the winner of the **2018 Federal Duck Stamp Contest**.

This is the second contest win for Storm, an artist from Freeport, Minn., whose artwork previously appeared on the 2004-2005 stamp. Storm's winning art will grace the 2019-2020 Federal Duck Stamp, which will raise **tens of millions of dollars for habitat conservation** after it goes on sale in June 2019.

From: <https://www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp/2018-contest-results.php>

Learn more about Duck Stamps at

<https://www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp/duck-stamp-dollars-at-work.php>

As hunting dwindles, who will pay for wildlife conservation?

<http://www.anthropocenemagazine.org/2018/09/do-birders-buy-duck-stamps/>

By: [Brandon Keim](#)

For more than a century, hunters have played an important part in conserving wildlife in the U.S. and Canada. **Government-based conservation in particular relies on revenues from hunting — but the number of hunters is fast declining.** So where will funding come from? Will people who love wildlife, but don't hunt, foot the bill?

“As sociodemographic trends continue to reshape the conservation landscape,” write researchers in the journal *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*, **people have “questioned whether the current financial trajectory of wildlife conservation is sustainable and, perhaps more importantly, who is going to pay for it.”**

Led by Nathan Shipley, an environmental scientist at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, the researchers examine these questions through the lens of the **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Duck Stamp program**. The stamps function as waterfowl hunting licenses and tickets to federal wildlife refuges; proceeds from their sale are used to protect wetlands, and **nearly 9,4000 square miles of habitat have been set aside since the program's 1934 inception.**

It's a flagship part of what's known as the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation — the set of practices and institutions by which wildlife is regarded as belonging to all citizens, with hunting, fishing, and trapping regulated to prevent extinctions. The model has in many ways been successful, yet in recent years has attracted critics. They say it privileges hunters and excludes the perspectives of so-called non-consumptive users.

According to critics, government wildlife agencies have resisted not only their input but also their support, providing few ways for non-consumptive users to generate revenue. In this respect, the duck stamp program is unique: anybody can buy one. They can be purchased from conservation groups and sporting goods stores. **If wildlife-loving, non-hunting citizens want to pay for conservation, duck stamps are an easily accessible way.**

Whether they do is the focus of Shipley and his colleagues. They surveyed more than **3,300 participants in the National Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count**, gathering demographic information and asking wildlife-related habits and duck stamp purchases. **Just 20 percent of the birders had purchased duck stamps within the past two years.** Hunters were nearly six times more likely to buy duck stamps than the average non-hunting birder, though that difference disappeared when considering only the most serious birders.

What to make of these numbers? Though Shipley's team is careful not to draw general conclusions about **America's 45 million birders** or the state of all conservation-related funding streams, the findings certainly suggest that few birders purchase duck stamps. As for why that is, the researchers don't know, though they offer some possible explanations: **perhaps most birders simply don't know about the stamps. Maybe they do, but have ethical qualms with waterfowl hunting or feel unrepresented by hunter-heavy wildlife agencies.** Birders with conservative political inclinations might not appreciate government-led conservation; indeed, liberal respondents were more likely to buy stamps. Birders might prefer supporting non-governmental organizations instead.

“If the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is to survive another century,” write Shipley's team, “researchers and practitioners should begin to explore answers to these questions.” **Wildlife agencies need to understand how duck stamps can be made appealing to casual birders — and those lessons would have important implications for conservation as a whole.** After all, there are an estimated **86 million wildlife watchers in the U.S., compared to just 11 million hunters.** They represent a desperately needed source of financial support. People just need to figure out how to tap it.

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

2018-19 Meeting Schedule		
<i>Second Thursday at 6:30</i>		
<i>Day/Date</i>	<i>PM Speakers</i>	<i>Events</i>
Thursday, November 8, 2018	Brian Cain, From Scales to Feathers	
Thursday, December 13, 2018	LTVBC Maine Trip	<i>Christmas Nibbles</i>
Thursday, January 10, 2019	Nancy Wilson, Saving the Gouldian Finches	
Thursday, February 14, 2019	<i>TBD</i>	<i>Great Backyard Bird Count</i>
Thursday, March 14, 2019	<i>TBD</i>	
NO Thursday meeting in April	<i>"LTVBC Big Day"</i>	
	<i>TBD</i>	<i>Global Big Day</i>
NO Thursday meeting in May	<i>Picnic</i>	



Our weekend trip this year will be to **Nacogdoches area** in search of winter birds. Shelli Ellerbe will be leading the birding trip. More details at the November and December Meeting!

Because of diverse forests, available water and ready food sources, Nacogdoches is a birding paradise. Bird watchers from across the state and nation are discovering the area as a treasure trove of birdlife. Local trails, gardens and waterways provide ready access to wildlife and the moderate climate makes viewing a year-round activity.

Nacogdoches Winter Birding Trip	
Dates TBD	
<i>number</i>	<i>Name</i>
1	Gary H
2	Lisa H
3	Shelli E
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	

2018-19 Field Trip Schedule	
3rd Saturday	
Day/Date	Location
Saturday, November 17, 2018	Sheldon Lake
Your Choice	Christmas Bird Counts
Friday, January TBD	Nacogdoches Trip (3 days)
Saturday, February 16, 2019	Brazos Bend State Park
Saturday, March 16, 2019	Anahuac NWR (Evening Trip)
Saturday, April 13, 2019	Sam Houston National Forest
Saturday, April 20, 2019	High Island, Bolivar, Anahuac
Saturday, April 27, 2019	Colette & Paul's Home
Saturday, May 18, 2019	The Big Thicket/Roy Larson's



Trinity River Refuge- Big Sit 2018

It was a nice day at the Big Sit at the JJ Mayes Wildlife Trace Observation Deck. We identified 33 species and had 11 people take part in the event. The best birds were the **Bald Eagle, Osprey, Northern Harrier** and **Green Heron**.

We occupied our circle from 6:30am to 7:00 pm. Participants were: **Gary Holmes, Lisa Holmes, Joe Hall, Barbara Tilton, Stuart Marcus, Marvin Masters, Patty Hardy, Jim Hardy, Carlton Collier,** and **Dennis Outlaw**.



2018 Big Sit North American Totals

Participating States/Countries: 39 (current record: 54 in 2005)

Total Circles: 146 (current record: 241 circles in 2010)

Reported Sitters!: 102

Total Species Observed Worldwide: 353

Total North American (US & Canada) Species Observed: 353

2018 Top 10 Big Sits

Milford, Connecticut (U.S.)	— "B.W. Surf Scopers"	— 115
Los Osos, California (U.S.)	— "Pishing in the Wind"	— 106
Hennepin, Illinois (U.S.)	— "Mighty Mighty Jizz Masters"	— 102
Weslaco, Texas (U.S.)	— "Weslaco RedCrowns"	— 88
Pescadero, California (U.S.)	— "SASsy Seawatchers"	— 86
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (U.S.)	— "John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge"	— 80
Grayslake, Illinois (U.S.)	— "Rollins Raptors"	— 75
Northampton County, Virginia (U.S.)	— "Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory"	— 74
Unionville, Indiana (U.S.)	— "Sitting Duck Deck Sitters" — James Hengeveld	— 72
Canfield, Ohio (U.S.)	— "Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary"	— 72
Glastonbury, Connecticut (U.S.)	— "Glastonbury Meadow Scopers"	— 71

TEXAS — CIRCLES: 7 REGISTERED, 4 REPORTING

Weslaco RedCrowns	— John Yochum — Weslaco, TX (count: 88)
Hubbard Creek HOME-S	— Greg Cook — Breckenridge, TX (count: 69)
Super-silly-em!	— Ted Drozdowski — Waxahachie, TX (count: 52)
Moody Flews — Greg Whittaker	— Galveston, TX (count: 45)
Commons Ford	— Shelia Hargis — Austin, TX
Swarovski Sitting Hawks	— Libby Even — Corpus Christi, TX
Cyanocorax of Quinta Mazatlan	— John Brush — McAllen, TX



On 6 October, more than **17,000 birders around the world went birding together for the first October Big Day**. Reporting from **146 countries, they tallied 6,136 species of birds: more than half of the world's birds in a single day**. eBirders added 21,149 pictures to their lists, photographing 2,356 species in these 24 hours. This is a new height for a single day of October birding. As we watch sightings roll in for these Big Day events, the amazing power of the global birding community is so humbling—uniting people across every boundary in our shared passion for birds. This passion allows us to collect unprecedented information on where and when birds occur around the world, and to transform that information into science and research products that can help with bird conservation worldwide. **October Big Day alone collected 725,000 bird observations towards these goals**. Stay tuned for some exciting new eBird Science products in the coming months.

<https://ebird.org/news/october-big-day-6-october-2018>

Meeting Minutes September 13, 2018



The Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club met Thursday, September 13, 2018, at the First Liberty National Bank Corner in Liberty, Texas. President Gary Holmes called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. Fourteen members were present. Stuart Marcus made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2018, meeting as published in the September 2018 Wood Duck #236. Lisa Holmes seconded, all agreed and the motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Current checking account balance is \$ 1,815.90. We had expenses of \$315.84 for a donation to the Houston Audubon for the Bird-a-thon Team and for the summer birding class. We received \$150.00 in dues. The David Dauphin Memorial Savings Account balance is \$1,171.69. This includes \$0.83 for interest. Stuart Marcus made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Paul Micallef seconded, all agreed and the Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Old Business:

- We had a great trip to Maine this summer.
- Twenty-six people have signed up for the Big Bend trip. The trip will be May 25 to June 1, 2019.

New Business:

- Gary went over the 2018-2019 Meeting Schedule and the 2018-2019 Field Trip Schedule.
- Sunday, October 14, 2018, the Big Sit will be at J. J. Mayes this year due to the road to Champion Lake being closed for repairs.
- The September Field Trip on September 15th for Bird Banding at GCBO has been canceled due to the weather. Instead, we will be going to Smith Point Hawk Watch on September 22nd .
- We will be doing Hot Spot Birding in Liberty County. Our first Hot Spot Birding will be to the Knobby Knees Trail on the Trinity River Refuge on Saturday, November 3. Gary will send out more information prior to this outing. The first Saturday in December (12-1-18) we will go to the Dayton Dump.

Paul and Colette Micallef had a Redstart in their yard this morning. Lisa Holmes saw over 100 Wood Storks lift off Champion Lake. David Knutson saw over 100 Anhingas lift off Champion Lake. David has also been watching a pair of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks raise their 11 ducklings. Two weeks ago Ceal Stirling had a Painted Bunting at her house.

Door prizes were donated by Lisa Holmes, Stuart Marcus and Colette Micallef. They were won by Colette Micallef, Patty Hardy and Jim Hardy.

Since there was no more new or old business to discuss, Paul Micallef made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carlton Collier seconded, all agreed and the meeting was adjourned.

Renie O'Connor, Secretary

Editor's Note:

There was no newsletter for October; therefore, the September minutes are appearing here in the November newsletter. There was no business meeting for October and there are no October minutes to approve.

LTVBC September Field Trip- Sheldon Lake State Park

Saturday, November 17, 2018

14140 Garrett Rd, Houston, TX 77044

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Bring: lunch, drinks, chairs, and mosquito repellent

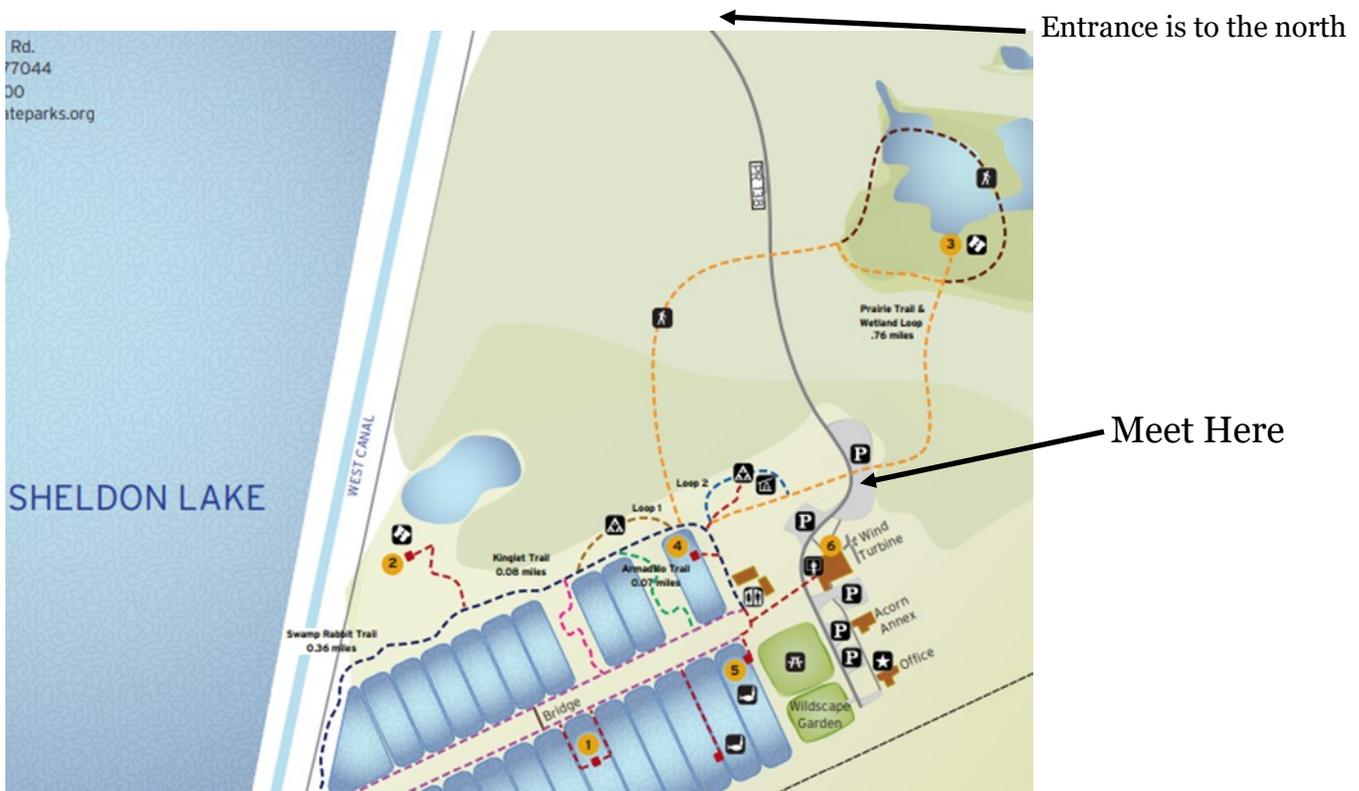
Travel Time/ Time Distance: 28 min from Dayton

Car Pool: Meet at Dayton Brookshire's at 7:30 am

If you have not been to Sheldon Lake in a few years, please know that the entrance to the park has changed. You now enter from the north, off of Garrett Road. Please use the address above, not the park name to search for directions to the park.

The primary activities at the lake unit are fishing and wildlife observation. Sheldon Lake is open every day to public fishing with appropriate licenses. Boats must not exceed headway speed while operating on the lake; they may be launched at the south boat ramp on Pineland Road.

Activities at the State Park and Environmental Learning Center include group programming, birding, wildlife/nature study, hiking, and fishing for children. The park (open daily) includes a 0.5-mile self-guided nature trail that passes 28 naturalized ponds that contain alligators and other wildlife. (Binoculars are recommended for best viewing.)



For a checklist: [Birds of Sheldon Lake SP & Environmental Learning Center: A Field Checklist](#)



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.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

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 2018-19.
 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
 P.O. Box 6051
 Liberty, TX 77575