



THE WOOD DUCK



Newsletter #270

Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club

December 2023

www.LowerTrinityValleyBirdClub.org

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PO Box 6051 Liberty, Texas 77575

December Meeting & Christmas Nibbles

LOWER TRINITY VALLEY BIRD CLUB will meet on
Thursday, December 14, 2023

Welcome & Christmas Nibbles

6:00 pm

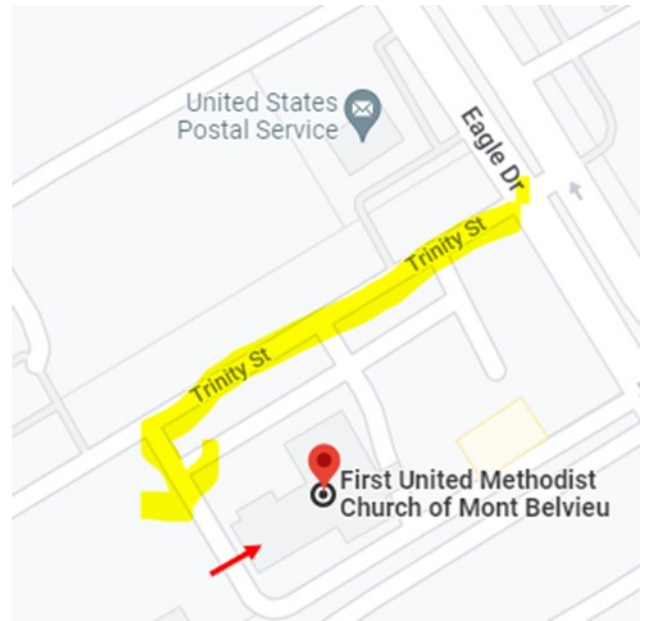
Meeting

6:30 pm

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

We will meet in the fellowship hall at the back of the church. Doors open at 5:30.

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.



We will celebrate the holiday season with our Christmas Nibbles and a presentation over **the LTVBC November Adventure to The Rio Grande Valley**.

Be sure to come early for our “Birder’s Chat” time. 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/>

LTVBC Christmas Nibbles & Meeting Thursday, Dec 14, 2023

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

6:00 Welcome & Nibbles
6:30 LTVBC Meeting

Presentation: Rio Grande Valley – Nov 2023
By Margo, Shelli, Joan, Lisa & Gary

Ornament exchange: Bring an inexpensive bird/nature ornament

Hackberry Gully Bird Evening Bird Walks

4th Thursday evening each month, 4pm

Mont Belvieu, TX

Have you bought your 2023-2024 Duck Stamp?
Support wetland conservation, get your **Migratory
Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp.**





Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2023

In-Person Meeting 6:30 pm –Mont Belvieu Methodist Church presiding officers: **Gary Holmes**, president

Attendance- 12

Approve September Minutes- *Paul Gregg- motion, second- Margaret G, vote-approved*

Treasurer’s report and approval *Motion by Stuart M, seconded by Margo T, vote- approved*

Old Business:

1. Duck Stamps- support conservation!
2. We need a LTVBC secretary
3. Big Sit - Walk for the Wild was a great success - identified 56 species, had 70+ visitors and a Limpkin!
[Bird City, Texas](#)
 - a. New Bird City Texas criteria will be out soon, then we will meet again with Mont Belvieu Parks Directors
 - b. Hackberry Gully Park – we have identified 67 species, next bird walk is Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023 at 4:00pm
 - c. Sunset is at about 5:30 pm Should we move birds walks to Saturday Morning?- *Group indicated to continue on Thursday, start at 4:00pm due to early sunset*

New Business

1. Christmas Bird Counts
 - a. Old River CBC - **Thursday, December 28, 2023, Contact** Paul Fagala
 - b. Trinity River CBC - **Thursday, Jan 4, Contact** Stuart Marcus
 - c. Baytown CBC - ?
 - d. LTVBC adventure select location for Summer of 2023
Tropical Locations- Belize, Costa Rica, Jamaica

LTVBC November Activities

November 9, 2023

LTVBC Monthly Meeting at Mont Belvieu Methodist Church
(presentation by Paul Gregg)

November 15-20, 2023

LTVBC Valley Trip: McAllen & South Padre Island

November 30, 2023

Hackberry Gully Evening Bird Walk
(last Thursday due to Thanksgiving)

Presentation: Paul Gregg, “Birding the Lower Rio Grande Valley” (with tips for better bird photography)

Minutes by Gary Holmes

President's Message

Gary Holmes

Hello, Bird Club,

I hope you are excited about this holiday season and winter birding!

Our **next meeting** will be on **Thursday, Dec. 7** at the Methodist Church in Mont Belvieu. We will celebrate the holiday season with our Christmas Nibbles. Bring your favorite covered dish or dessert. Also, bring an inexpensive bird/nature related gift or ornament for the exchange. We will have a presentation on our recent **LTVBC**

Rio Grande Adventure and the amazing **Cattle Tyrant**. [A South American Bird Is Drawing Crowds in Corpus Christi \(texasmonthly.com\)](https://www.texasmonthly.com/feature/a-south-american-bird-is-drawing-crowds-in-corpus-christi/)

Please follow this link for information concerning our [LTVBC Costa Rican Birding Adventure](#) (June 5 to June 14, 2024). We have an **excellent group rate of \$2,680.00** USD per person based on 10 guests traveling and sharing 5 rooms- comparable trips range around \$4K. The 10-day/ 9-nights trip will include ground transportation, meals, lodging, and guides.

Costa Rica is an amazing birding destination! We will review the itinerary and answer questions at the Dec 7th meeting. LTVBC members can reserve your spot NOW! – nonmembers wishing to attend will be placed on the waitlist for vacant spots.

Hope you can attend the Nibbles and our events....*Gary*



Thursday, December 7, 2023 6:00pm	LTVBC Monthly Meeting at Mont Belvieu Methodist Christmas Nibbles, Rio Grande Adventure Presentation and ornament exchange
Saturday, December 23, 2023	Houston (Baytown) Christmas Bird Count contact Stuart Marcus at stuart.marcus13@gmail.com
Thursday, December 28, 2023	Old River Christmas Bird Count contact Paul Fagala, covebirder@yahoo.com
Thursday, January 4, 2024	Trinity River Christmas Bird Count contact Stuart Marcus at stuart.marcus13@gmail.com

LTVBC Rio Grande Birding Adventure November 15- 20, 2023

Belted Kingfisher
Green Kingfisher
Ringed Kingfisher
Black-crested Titmouse
Cattle Tyrant
Clay-colored Thrush
Common Pauraque
Couch's Kingbird
Great Kiskadee
Tropical Kingbird
Vermilion Flycatcher
Long-billed Thrasher
Curve-billed Thrasher
Golden-fronted Woodpecker
Ladder-backed Woodpecker
Gray Hawk
Harris's Hawk
Hook-billed Kite
Roadside Hawk
Green Jay
White-tipped Dove
Inca Dove
Olive Sparrow
Plain Chachalaca



Stats

Participants: Ceal & Jim Tomlinson, Lisa & Gary Holmes, , Margo Taylor, Shelli Ellerbe, and Joan Risinger

120+ species

Joan - 36 lifers

Jim - 100+ lifers



Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club Costa Rican Adventure



15+ years Experience

Personal Attention

Tailor made Packages

24/7 in country Assistance

Wednesday · June 5th, 2024 - Friday · June 14th, 2024

Privately Guided: 9 night - 10 day

<https://axustravelapp.com/shared/itinerary/ce2df600-2174-42c5-9235-2a779fa9b776>

- ◆ Meet and Greet at the San Jose Airport by your private driver.
- ◆ Private transportation throughout your journey in a comfortable air-conditioned vehicle. Your private guide acts as your driver. (Except for the transfers in if you arrive on different flights, as it would be separate private drivers transferring you from the airport to your first hotel)
- ◆ Services of your private, professional, English-speaking birding guide. All of our expert guides have 25+ years of birding and guiding experience. Your guide is with you at each hotel, each park or reserve, and all attractions, and will stop in route and show you “off the beaten track” locations only known to the guides.
- ◆ All meals beginning with dinner on arrival day and ending with breakfast on departure day.
- ◆ 1 night at Hotel Bougainvillea.
- ◆ 2 nights at Tirimbina Lodge.
- ◆ 2 nights at Rancho Naturalista.
- ◆ 2 nights at Savegre Lodge.
- ◆ 2 nights at Cerro Lodge.
- ◆ Privately guided half-day birdwatching tour at La Selva Biological Station.
- ◆ Privately guided half-day birdwatching tour at Cope's Gardens.
- ◆ Privately guided half-day birdwatching tour at the private reserve of Rancho Naturalista.
- ◆ Privately guided birdwatching visit to Batsu Gardens.
- ◆ Privately guided half-day birdwatching tour at the private reserve of Savegre Lodge.
- ◆ Privately guided full-day birdwatching visit to the Carara National Park followed by a private boat tour on the estuary of the Tarcoles River.
- ◆ Welcome packet with the Official Checklist of the Birds of Costa Rica.
- ◆ Daily species review including photo identification (both during and after your trip).
- ◆ 24/7 in- country customer service.



\$2,680.00 USD per person based on 10 guests traveling and sharing 5 rooms

Not included: International airfare, gratuity to your private guide, alcohol & soda with meals unless indicated, tips to local drivers, hotel staff, and restaurant staff, any meals or activities not specifically listed as included, purchases of a personal nature.

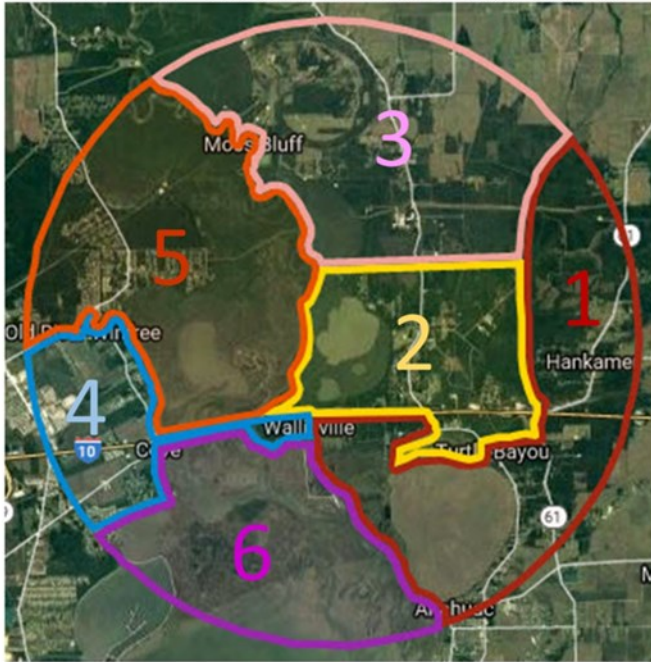
Christmas Bird Counts

Old River Christmas Bird Count Thursday, December 28, 2023

contact Paul Fagala, covebirder@yahoo.com

by Paul Fagala

Old River Christmas Bird Count Areas



The Old River Christmas Bird Count will be held on Thursday, December 28, 2023. My plan, instead of meeting at a central location to begin the day, is to get people who are interested in helping in touch with **area leaders directly and to meet in your area to start birding...**

- Area 1 – Barbara Tilton
- Area 2 - Stuart Marcus
- Area 3 – Judy Lehmberg
- Area 4 - Marilyn Holloway
- Area 5 – Gary Holmes
- Area 6 – Paul Fagala
- Canoe/Kayak- Bruce Bodson
- Trinity Bay- David Hanson

eBird Tracking: The areas will be submitting their birds to a group eBird account so we can track all the birds identified in real time.

If people live inside the count circle but do not want to get out to participate, they can watch their feeders or count in their yard. Anyone wanting to do that can contact me as well and I can get them set up with the eBird group that will compile all the numbers. **If you want to participate,** contact Paul Fagala, covebirder@yahoo.com

Join our Facebook page - Old River Christmas Bird Count (TXOR). That will be an easy place to post updates. I'm looking forward to the count! Paul Fagala, Compiler

Trinity River Christmas Bird Count, January 4, 2024

contact Stuart Marcus at stuart.marcus13@gmail.com

Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge will be hosting **the 27th Annual Trinity River Christmas Bird Count** for northern Liberty County on Thursday, January 4, 2024. Areas to be counted include the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge, Tarkington Prairie, and Gaylor Lake. Our meeting location is **the Shell Fuel Max Gas station located at the intersection of Hwy 105 and FM 2518 at 7:00 am.**

Some folks will bird the "bottoms" so be sure to bring a sack lunch, rubber knee boots and other appropriate outdoor clothing. Birdwatchers of all levels are welcome.

If you want to participate or have any questions, you can contact Stuart Marcus.

Houston (Baytown) Christmas Bird Count, Saturday, December 23, 2023

contact Stuart Marcus at stuart.marcus13@gmail.com

This count includes the area around Baytown. David Sarkozi is the compiler. Those wishing to participate should contact David (david@sarkozi.net). [CBC Map by David Sarkozi](#)

Stuart Marcus is an area leader for this CBC, please contact him directly to join him in the area that he covers.

Day/Date	Time	Event	Location	Speaker	Notes
December			Christmas Bird Counts		
Thursday, December 7, 2023	6:30 PM	Meeting	Methodist Church Mont Belvieu	Club Members	Rio Grande Adventure Christmas Nibbles Life List Pins
Thursday, January 11, 2024	6:30 PM	Meeting	Methodist Church Mont Belvieu	Paul Fagala	Sparrow ID
Saturday, January 20, 2024		Field Trip	Anahuac NWR		
Thursday, February 8, 2024	6:30 PM	Meeting	Methodist Church Mont Belvieu		Purple Martins
February 16-19, 2024			Any place you are birding		Great Backyard Bird Count
Saturday, February 17, 2024		Field Trip	Cattail Marsh, Beau- mont		
Thursday, March 14, 2024	6:30 PM	Meeting	Methodist Church Mont Belvieu		Shorebird ID
Saturday, March 16, 2024		Field Trip	Bolivar Peninsula		
April		Meeting	during field trip on 4/15/24		
Saturday, April 15, 2023		Field Trip	High Island, Bolivar, Anahuac		Big Day
April cold front		Field Trip	Sabine Woods		Warbler Day
Saturday, May 13, 2023		Picnic Meeting	arrangements to be decided later		



LOWER TRINITY VALLEY BIRD CLUB

Membership Information

[Check us out on Facebook!](#)

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

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