



# THE WOOD DUCK



Newsletter #266

Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club

February 2023

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

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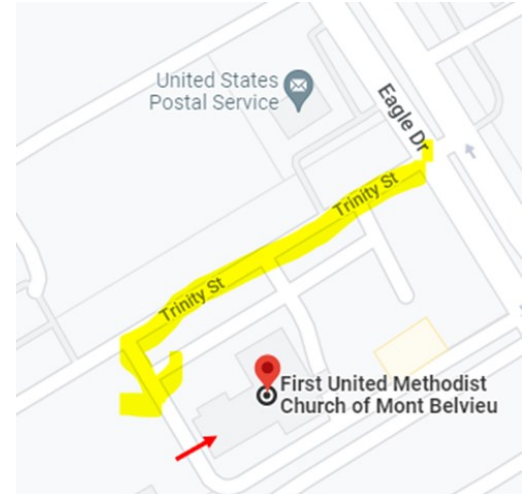
PO Box 6051 Liberty, Texas 77575

## LTVBC Meeting February 2023

LOWER TRINITY VALLEY BIRD CLUB

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

First Methodist Church of Mont Belvieu.  
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).

### February Presentation

Our February speaker will be **Kelly Pardy** from the Houston Zoo. Kelly will give a presentation over the zoo’s **Attwater’s Prairie Chicken Captive-Breeding Program.**

*“Kelly Pardy is the Supervisor of Birds at the Houston Zoo. He has 10 years of experience working with animals in zoological settings, with 9 of those years at the Houston Zoo. He has worked as a keeper with the Attwater’s Prairie Chicken since early 2013 and began a more active involvement in management of their recovery program in December of 2020. He works closely with USFWS and other zoological institutions to help save Attwater’s Prairie Chickens in the wild.”*

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**It’s time to pay dues!**

## Meeting Minutes



January 12, 2023

The Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club met Thursday, January 12, 2023, at the First Methodist Church in Mont Belvieu, Texas. President Gary Holmes called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Fourteen members and one guest were present. Denise Barkis made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2022 meeting. Margaret Gardzina seconded, all agreed and the motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report: There was no Treasurer's Report this month.

Old Business:

Duck Stamps are still available for purchase until the end of April. If you are interested in this year's Duck Stamp, please contact Shelli Ellerbe.

The Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2023 at the Liberty Center in Liberty City Hall. A motion was made by Lisa Holmes that Barbara Tilton would get the meat for the dinner. Margaret Gardzina seconded, all agreed and the motion was approved. The rest of the meal will be provided by members of the bird club. Gary will send out a general invitation to all the members via email. Denise Barkis volunteered to make a call list in order to invite those individuals who may not have e-mail addresses. Post card invitations will be sent out prior to the anniversary party.

Old Business:

The Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club program for Bird City will start in May.

The Club's big adventure trip this year will be in the fall. One possible trip would be to the Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival in November. There will be more planning at future meetings,

The field trip this month is to Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, January 28, 2023.

Speaker Presentation: Ed Jackson gave a wonderful presentation on duck identification. Ed is retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and has years of experience on the Texas Gulf Coast. Ed shared his knowledge and expertise on ducks and their identification.

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

Renie O'Connor, Secretary

Editor's Note: There was no January newsletter. *-Shelli Ellerbe*

## ***President's Message by Gary Holmes***

Hello, Bird Club,

The January LTVBC meeting included a wonderful Duck Identification presentation from **Ed Jackson**. We appreciate Ed sharing his knowledge of ducks with the club. If you were unable to attend, you missed a treat! Ed's art and his duck experiences were amazing!

We have had outstanding presentations with impressive speakers at our meetings this year. We will have another great presentation on **Feb 9, 2023 - Kelly Parady** will give us an overview of the Houston zoo's Attwater's Prairie Chicken Captive-Breeding Program. Kelly has experience in the captive breeding of Whooping Cranes and Prairie Chickens. We are privileged to have Kelly speak to our group.

On **Saturday, February 18, 2023**, we will visit **Cattail Marsh** in Beaumont. The boardwalk is a wonderful place to get up-close to ducks and marsh birds. We will also walk the levee trails for more marsh and woodland birds. We need to increase our participation in **the Great Backyard Bird Count** Feb. 17-20, 2023 - our Liberty County numbers are terrible.

For our birding adventure, we have decided to visit the **Rio Grande Valley** in the fall of 2023. The RIO GRANDE VALLEY BIRDING FESTIVAL is Nov, 8-12, 2023. We will need to decide if we will attend the festival or visit after the festival. The festival field trips are expensive but get you into some great places. If we self-guide, we can mimic the festival's trips. We need trip coordinators.

Hope you can attend our February Events ....*Gary*



Thanks to **Ed** for the wonderful and informative duck presentation.

(photo by Joan Risinger)



You are invited to the

## 30<sup>th</sup> Reunion of the Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club

*Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023, at 4:30 pm*  
*at the Liberty Center in Liberty City Hall*  
*1829 Sam Houston St, Liberty, TX 77575-4742*

Activities include:

- Dinner Provided by LTVBC
- Visit with birding friends-meet our new birders
- View LTVBC Scrapbook and recall our wonderful birding friends and trips
- Special award honoring Jan and David Dauphin (Jan will be in attendance)
- Recognition of founding members and past officers
- Presentation featuring our past birding trips
- Learn about the future for LTVBC

**RSVP now!**

**Include the names and the number in your party**

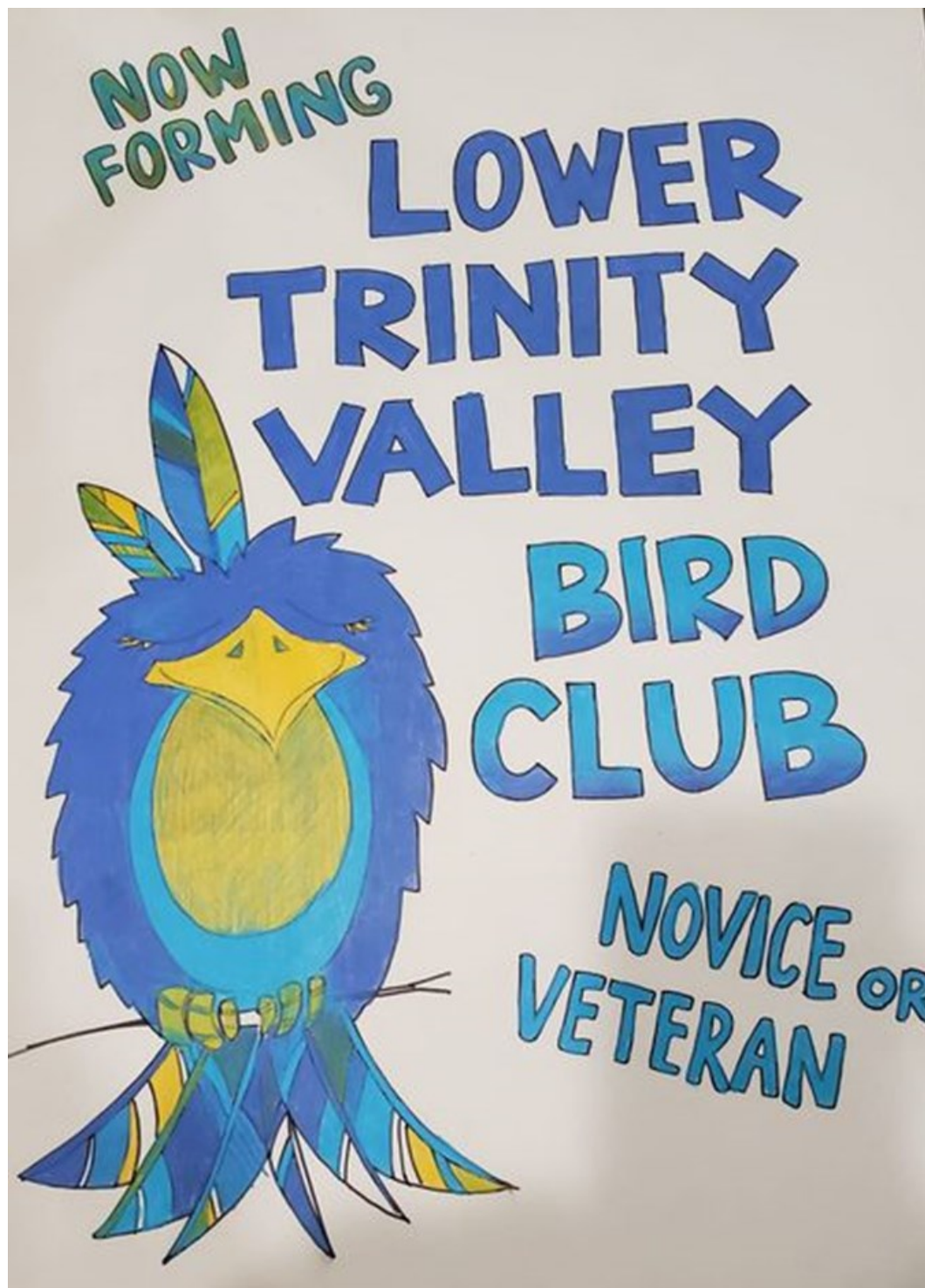
**Please share this invitation with all your LTVBC friends and past members.**

For more information or to RSVP, please:

Text or call Gary Holmes at 713-366-1722

Or email LTVBC at [lowertrinityvalleybirdclub@gmail.com](mailto:lowertrinityvalleybirdclub@gmail.com)





From Celia Stirling Tomlinson:

“This is one of a dozen posters I made many, many years ago. We plastered them all over town. All handmade, all different.”



From Barbara Tilton: Long –time bird club members will remember this as LTVBC's first club field trip taken to Park Chalk Bluff.

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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 Event Calendar - Always subject to change

Day/Date	Time	Event	Location	Speaker	Notes
Thursday, February 9, 2023	6:30 PM	Meeting	FMC - Mont Belvieu	Kelly Pardy	Prairie Chicken Captive Breeding Program
Saturday, February 18, 2023		Field Trip	Cattail Marsh, Beaumont		
Saturday, February 25, 2023	4:30 PM	LTVBC 30th Reunion, Liberty Center, Liberty Texas			
Thursday, March 9, 2023	6:30 PM	Meeting	FMC - Mont Belvieu	TBD	Native Plants Great Backyard Bird Count
March, to be arranged		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		



### LTVBC February Field Trip

*Saturday, Feb 18, 2023*

### Cattail Marsh, Beaumont

4233 Babe Zaharias Drive,  
Beaumont, TX 77705

**From Dayton: 51 min** 47.4 miles

*Bring spotting scopes, mosquito repellent, water, and lunch. This trip will involve walking trails. If you don't want to walk the trails, you can sit on the boardwalk and enjoy the birds till we return.*

Cattail Marsh includes 900-acres of wetlands and offers a variety of recreational activities with a new boardwalk and more than eight miles of gravel levee roads for jogging, hiking, biking, horseback riding, bird watching and wildlife photography along the banks of Hildebrandt Bayou and Willow Marsh Bayou.

Cattail Marsh is a wildlife refuge for a variety of aquatic mammals and more than 250 species of birds annually, including: pelicans, egrets, roseate spoonbills, ducks, ibis, doves and red-winged blackbirds.

**Meet at the parking lot at 7:30 AM**



## Trinity River CBC Results

by Stuart Marcus

Thanks again to the 15 of you that helped with this year's Trinity River CBC. We had a total of 76 species seen which is just a couple below our yearly average. We did add 1 new one - White-breasted Nuthatch. We also missed a few easy ones (pipits, Cooper's hawk) plus we did not have anyone run the river this year due to illness.

What was fascinating was that 26 species (1/3 of total) were seen by one group only of the 7 groups we had out there. Goes to show the importance of each of you. Hope to see you again later this year. Might do it on Thursday, 12-28-23 if all goes according to plan..... Stuart Marcus



## The Great Backyard Bird Count

Feb. 17-20, 2023

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a free, fun, and easy event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the four-day event and report their sightings online at [birdcount.org](https://birdcount.org). Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can participate from your backyard, or anywhere in the world.

Each checklist submitted during the GBBC helps researchers at the [National Audubon Society](https://www.audubon.org), [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](https://www.cornell.edu/ornithology) and [Birds Canada](https://birds.canada.ca) learn more about how birds are doing, and how to protect them and the environment we share. Recently, more than 300,000 participants submitted

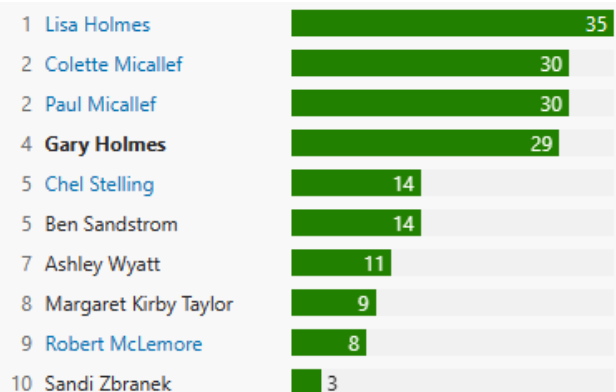
their bird observations online, creating the largest instantaneous snapshot of global bird populations ever recorded.

The 26th annual GBBC will be held Friday, February 17, through Monday, February 20, 2023. Please visit the official website at [birdcount.org](https://birdcount.org) for more information.

### 2022 World Results:

7,099 species of birds identified  
 192 participating countries  
 359,479 eBird checklists  
 298,208 Merlin Bird IDs  
 141,990 photos added to Macaulay Library  
 384,641 estimated global participants


### 2022 Liberty County Results:





## 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.

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