



THE WOOD DUCK



Newsletter #243

Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club

September 2019

www.LowerTrinityValleyBirdClub.org

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PO Box 6051 Liberty, Texas 77575

Meeting Information

Thursday, September 12, 2019

6:30 pm

1822 Sam Houston Street

Liberty

From US-90, turn north onto Travis Street, between Whataburger and KFC. FLNB Corner will be at the intersection of Travis Street and Sam Houston Street.

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Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club will begin their fall birding programs with a special guest from Houston Audubon. Mary Anne Weber has been the Education Director for Houston Audubon for 20 years. She will discuss bird migration in a program titled: "Should I Stay or Should I Go? – Understanding Bird Migration." The program will highlight the reasons for migration and the perils birds face as they move across the hemisphere. Live raptors will accompany the program from Houston Audubon's Raptor and Education Center.

Mary Anne manages Houston Audubon's Raptor and Education Center. She has worked with captive raptors for over 30 years and cares for the education raptors that accompany the hundreds of programs given by Houston Audubon each year. Mary Anne has a B.S. in Wildlife Biology and Forestry from Virginia Tech. She has worked at The Raptor Trust in New Jersey, and she ran Wind Rock Wild Bird Rescue in Montana. Mary Anne has won numerous awards for her unique education programming that highlights bird conservation on the Upper Texas Coast. Her programs are for all ages and all audiences.

If you have any questions, please contact President Gary Holmes at 281-576-0574 or e-mail him at geholmes52@gmail.com or visit the LTVBC Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/98618981435/>

Meeting Minutes May 18, 2019



The Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club met Saturday, May 18, 2019, at the home of Paul and Colette Micallef. President Gary Holmes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. following a pot luck supper provided by club members. Seventeen members were present at this month's meeting. From 6:00PM to 7:00PM we were able to bird around the Micallef home. Everyone shared their best birding experience to date.

- At 7:00 PM Gary Holmes gave a presentation of the club's 2019-2020 Plans.
- Renie O'Connor made a motion to give Barbara Tilton's Bird-a-thon crew \$200.00. Shelli Ellerbe seconded, all agreed and the motion was approved.

Lisa Homes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Joe Hall seconded, all agreed and the meeting was adjourned.

Renie O'Connor, Secretary

President's Report

By Gary Holmes



Hope everyone had a good summer!

Lisa and I had a great summer starting with the LTVBC's Big Bend adventure in May, Prothonotary warblers nesting on the back porch in June, completing the Baytown Birding Challenge in July, and traveling to Louisiana the first week in August to watch our oldest grandson play baseball. (His team finished 2nd in US South Region Pony 14U Championships.)

At the **LTVBC picnic**, we made some great plans for the 2019-2020 birding year. We have exciting speakers and monthly field trips scheduled, along with a weekend trip to the **Laredo Birding Festival** in February and a 5-7-day adventure to the **Florida Keys and Dry Tortugas**. We will be planning the dates and itinerary for the Keys/Tortugas trip this fall.

We appreciate **Paul and Colette Micallef** for hosting the picnic and sharing their unique and interesting home with us. We enjoyed the fellowship and all of Paul and Colette's collections and treasures.

We will start the year with our traditional **kick-off meal** on **Thursday, Sept 12, 2019**. Mary Anne Weber, Houston Audubon's Education Director, will be giving a presentation titled "**Should I Stay or Should I Go—Understanding Bird Migration.**" In preparation for our November meeting, we will take orders for Screech Owl nest boxes. We will have workday to build the boxes on Saturday, October 19, 2019 and the nest boxes will be ready for pick-up at our Thursday, November 14, 2019 meeting. (See order form for prices).

Our **Saturday, Sept 14, 2019** field trip will be to the **Texas City Dike, East Galveston Island and Bolivar Flats**. Also, we will be able to see one of the wonders of bird migration on **Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019** as we watch 100's of thousands of Purple Martins at the Martin Roost at the Fountains Mall. **(See field trip article for details.)**

Hope to see you and one or all of our September activities.....

Gary

Bylaws Changes

We will vote on the following bylaw changes at the September meeting:

Current: Article III Membership and Dues

Section 2 Fiscal Year for this organization will be May 1 through April 30

Section 3 Dues are payable on or before the May meeting

Proposed Change:

Article III Membership and Dues

Section 2 Fiscal Year for this organization will be January 1 to December 31

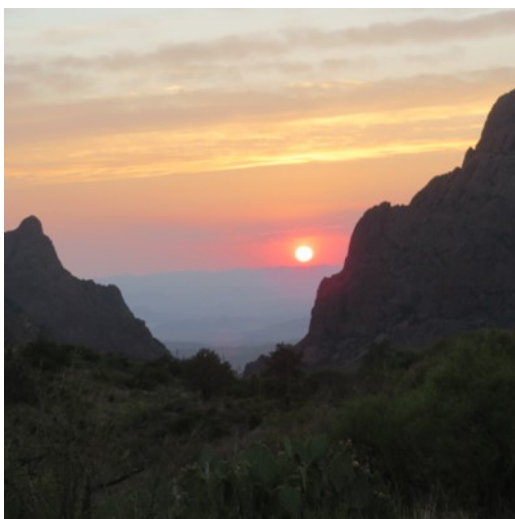
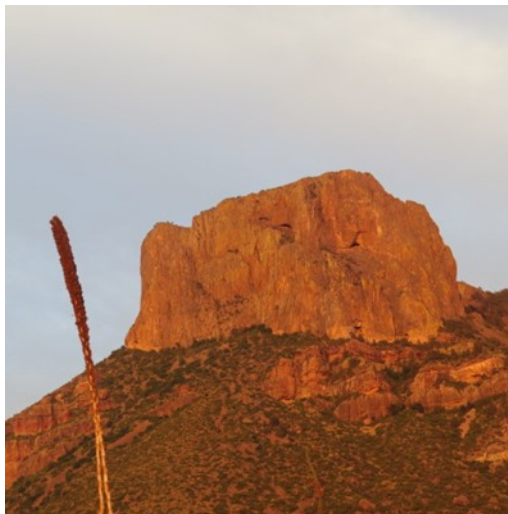
Section 3 Dues are payable on or before the December meeting

LTVBC Big Bend Adventure

May 25 to June 1, 2019

Our 2019 summer birding adventure was to **Big Bend National Park** and **Christmas Mountains Oasis**. We had 16 participants who identified 79 species of bird with the Colima Warbler being a life-bird for most! Lisa and I had 5 lifers- **Colima Warbler**, **Crissal Thrasher**, **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, **Lark Sparrow**, and **Bronzed Cowbird**. Also, a nice **Yellow-green Vireo** in Marathon.

Our December meeting will feature a full presentation over this exciting trip.



September Field Trips

Texas City Dike, Galveston East End, Bolivar Flats

Saturday, September 14, 2019

Address: Texas City Dike Road, Texas City, TX 77590

Carpool: Meet at Dayton Brookshire’s parking lot- at 6:30 AM

Drive time: 1 hour, 11 min.

Bring: Spotting Scopes and \$5 cash/vehicle entrance fee

Meet at the first parking lot on the Dike at about 7:30 am

We will start birding at the Dike, then may travel to Bolivar Flats depending on the tide.

Purple Martin Watch Events

Sunday, September 22, 2019

Meet at 7:00 PM in front of the Old Navy at the Fountains in Stafford.

Address: 12634 Fountain Lake Circle, Stafford TX 77477.

August 24 report: Our last Martin Migration Madness event was a huge success! Over a hundred folks came out to Stafford along with some 4 legged friends to watch the hundreds of thousands of martins coming into the roost. We had a couple of Cooper’s Hawks also make a pass. The martins put on an amazing show and the kids who were watching referred to their movements as something like a Birdnado!

Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club



Click here

Screech Owl Nest Box

October 1, 2019- Nest box orders due

October 19, 2019- Nest box construction day

November 14, 2019 – Nest box pick-up

2018-2020 Officers

President	Gary Holmes
Vice-president	David Knutson
Secretary	Rene O’Connor
Treasurer	Shelli Ellerbe
Newsletter	Shelli Ellerbe
Presentation Coordinators	Stuart Marcus & Lisa Holmes

2019-2020 Schedules

2019-2020 Meeting Schedule		
Meetings - Second Thursday at 6:30 pm		
Thursday, September 12, 2019	Bird Migration Mary Anne Weber	Kick-off meal, order owl boxes
No Thursday Meeting in October	Big Sit-Champion Lake	
Thursday, October 19, 2020	Workday	
Thursday, November 14, 2019	Screech Owls Edward Ellerbe	Deliver owl boxes
Thursday, December 12, 2019	Big Bend Trip Report	Christmas Nibbles
Thursday, January 9, 2020	Ducks Unlimited	
Friday, 2/7/2020 to Sunday, 2/8/2020	LTVBC Weekend Trip	
Thursday, February, 13, 2020	Conservation Chris Holmes, Houston Zoo	
Thursday, March 12, 2020	Native Plants for Birds Native Plant Society	
No Thursday Meeting in April		
No Thursday Meeting in May	Picnic - Date TBD	

2019-20 Field Trip Schedule	
Date	Location
Saturday, September 14, 2019	Texas City Dike, Galveston, Bolivar
Saturday, October 12, 2019	Big Sit @ Champion Lake
Saturday, November 16, 2019	Baytown Nature Center
Your Choice	Christmas Bird Counts
Saturday, January 11, 2020	Cattail Marsh, Beaumont
Saturday, February 15, 2020	Anahuac NWR
Saturday, March 14, 2020	Brazoria Bend State Park
Saturday, April 18, 2020	High Island, Bolivar, Anahuac
Saturday, April 25, 2020	Sabine Woods
Saturday, May 16, 2020	Big Thicket, Roy Larson Sandyland

Our weekend trip will be to **LAREDO BIRDING FESTIVAL, February 5-8, 2020**. We will need to make reservations as soon as they open registration to get the best field trips.

LTVBC Adventure 2020
5-7 days
Florida Keys and Dry Tortugas
Trip date and itinerary to be determined this fall.

BIRD THE BORDER!
8TH LAREDO BIRDING FESTIVAL
<http://www.laredobirdingfestival.org/>

FEBRUARY 5 - 8, 2020

One, Two or Three Day Options

Blessed with a rich and diverse river eco-system, Laredo is home to hundreds of species of local and migratory birds. It's no wonder that Laredo is considered part of the "birdiest" corridor in North America.

Our prized birds include the Morelet's Seedeater (formerly the White-collared Seedeater), Scaled Quail, Gray Hawk, Audubon's and Altamira Orioles, Green Parakeets, Muscovy Duck, Red-billed Pigeon and Clay-colored Thrush, among many others.

Each day, birders will have a chance to select from a variety of full-day scenic trips. Escorted by professional field guides and members of our local Monte Mucho Audubon Society, birders will have an opportunity to deepen their birding knowledge of South Texas, and explore areas along Laredo's riverfront, creek systems, nature trails and private ranchland.

What will you find?

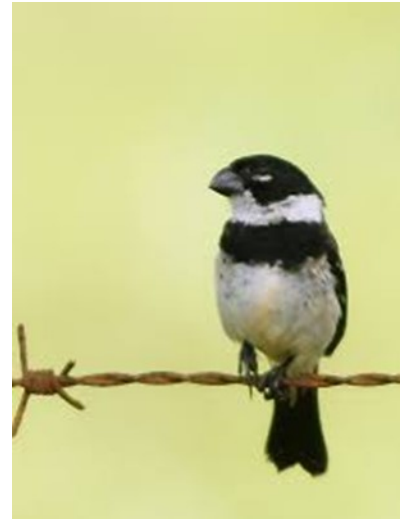
Warm South Texas hospitality, a dynamic city that bridges two cultures, and, of course, birds!

In Laredo, you will have unprecedented access to view the Seedeater and other avian beauties. We are a young festival, and so there is ample opportunity for discovery. You never know what you are going to find. Birding enthusiasts describe Laredo as the only place in the U.S. to have boasted four species of Kingfisher: the Ringed, Belted, Green and Amazon.

Our young and growing birding festival provides birders the opportunity to work closely with professional field guides, and to explore the depth of Laredo's natural beauty. Carefully selected public green spaces and private ranchland will provide visitors the chance to visit sites that have never been birded. The Laredo Birding Festival includes field trips, including catching our local green parakeets in action at St. Peter's Plaza in the afternoon, and special talks in the evenings.

We will again offer festival favorites such as "Bird 'til you Drop--Zapata County", "Bird 'til you Drop--Webb County", and two different kayak trips, "Floating Under Flyways I & II: Birding on the Rio Grande".

We are partnering with some new ranches to provide an even greater diversity of scenic getaways that can be explored during the three-day 2020 Laredo Birding Festival. For those who have already birded Laredo or will make this their first visit - welcome to our Gateway City!



2019 Daily Package Prices:

1-Day Package: \$90.00 2-Day Package: \$165.00 3-Day Package: \$240.00

Get your Screech-owl Nest Boxes

We will be building Eastern Screech-owl boxes for delivery & sale at our Thursday, November 14, 2019 meeting. The presentation that night will be by Edward Ellerbe, Texas Master Naturalist with the Blackland Prairie Chapter, over Eastern Screech-owls.

NEST PLACEMENT

Eastern Screech-owls nest in holes and cavities, but never dig a cavity themselves. Thus, they depend on tree holes opened or enlarged by woodpeckers, fungus, rot, or squirrels. They often occupy abandoned woodpecker nest holes. Eastern Screech-owls readily accept nest boxes, including those built for Wood Ducks or Purple Martins, and sometimes nest in wood piles, mailboxes, or crates left on the ground.



NEST DESCRIPTION

Eastern Screech-Owls build no nest. The female lays her eggs on whatever debris is at the bottom of her nesting cavity, be it wood-chips, twigs, or the cast-off feathers and droppings from a previous year's nest. Settling in, she makes a body-shaped depression where her eggs lie.

NEST BEHAVIOR

When nesting, the female stays in the nest hole except for brief dawn and dusk excursions. She and the nestlings are fed by her mate, though it is the female who tears the prey into small bits for the babies.

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Eastern_Screech-Owl/lifehistory

Screech-owl Nest Box Order Form: Due by October 1, 2019

The nest boxes constructed from long-lasting 1 X 10 rough-sawn cedar boards.

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Make checks payable to:

LTVBC

Mail to:

Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club

P.O. Box 6051

Liberty, TX 77575

Quantity ordered	Price
	LTVBC Members price \$25.00
	Nonmembers price \$30.00
Total	\$

Nest Boxes will ready for pick-up at our Thursday, November 14, 2019 meeting



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

**Please make checks
payable to LTVBC.**

Student Membership \$10.00

Individual Membership \$20.00

Family Membership \$35.00

Sponsor Membership \$50.00

Donation \$ _____

Donation to D. Dauphin Memorial Fund
\$ _____

Update my information

Send newsletter by email or mail

Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club
P.O. Box 6051
Liberty, TX 77575