



THE WOOD DUCK



Newsletter #227

September 2017

Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club ~ P.O. Box 6051 ~ Liberty, Texas 77575 ~ www.ltvbc.org

September Meeting

Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club

Thursday, September 14, 2017

6:30 pm

The FLNB Corner

1822 Sam Houston Ave., 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 speakers for September will be Shelli Ellerbe and Lisa Holmes. Their presentation will be over the King Ranch/Rio Grande Valley Trip which the LTVBC took last spring. It turned into an amazing 5-owl adventure! We start the meeting with our fall kick-off meal, and, of course, the main course will be **King Ranch Casserole!** Visitors are always welcome.

Field Trip Notice

On Saturday, Sept 16, 2017 the LTVBC has planned a field trip to the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory in Lake Jackson, TX to observe mist netting, data collection on the physical condition of the migrants, and bird banding.

Please be aware of the possibility that this field will need to be cancelled or replaced by another field trip due to damage from Hurricane Harvey.

Remember our Kick-Off Meal
Check your email to sign up for
bringing food and supplies to our
first meeting of the new birding year.

Time to pay those dues again.

See back page for instructions.

Or catch up if you have not paid last years dues!



Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2017

The Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club met Sunday, May 7, 2017, at the home of Gary and Lisa Holmes, Dayton, Texas. President Gary Holmes called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30PM. There was no May newsletter. There were no minutes for April, 2017.

Treasurer's Report:

- Current checking account balance is \$2,011.30. We had expenses in the amount of \$47.00. Income from dues totaled \$125.00.
- The David Dauphin Memorial Savings Account balance is \$969.51. We had expenses totaling \$240.00 for the Feathered Friends Art Contest awards. Interest income for this account was \$0.19. Shelli Ellerbe made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Lisa Holmes seconded, all agreed, and the motion was accepted.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Stuart Marcus made a motion to buy the National Geographic Bird Books for the Birding Class that will be held this summer. Renie O'Connor seconded, all agreed, and the motion was approved.
- We will be meeting every Thursday during the summer at J. J. Mayes at 5:30PM for birding.
- Gary went over the tentative meeting schedule for 2017-2018.

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

Renie O'Connor, Secretary

President's Report

By Gary Holmes

Hello Bird Club,

Hope everyone had a good summer.

Lisa and I took a *Birding and Big Trees* trip to California the first week in August. Driving a sporty Mustang convertible, we went to the Sierra Nevada foothills to see the **giant sequoias**, drove through the central valley in search of birds, toured the Redwood Highway to the **coastal redwood** groves in Northern California and visited the coast around San Francisco. The giant trees were awesome, but the birding was difficult in 300-foot-tall trees!! Also, the best time to bird the central valley is in the winter - it is hot and dry in August. However, we did get some new birds- **California Towhee, Ring-necked Pheasant, Surf Scoter, Yellow-billed Magpie, Oak Titmouse, and Clark's Grebes**. Our main target bird was **Nuttall's Woodpecker**- we found it twice on the trip! With the sighting of the Nuttall's, we have seen all 22 species of North American Woodpeckers.

The **LTVBC had many activities this summer** from our LTVBC Picnic, the Introduction-to-Birding Class, our weekly JJ Mayes Bird Survey and Dayton Chimney Swift Count on Thursday's, our visit to the Purple Martin Roost, to the unusual Jabiru visit in Chambers County. We had over 40 people participate in the various activities.

We have a **good year planned for 2017-2018** with interesting speakers, good field trip opportunities, and exciting birding trips (schedule is in this newsletter). At our **September 14th Meeting and Kick-off Meal** Shelli and Lisa will give a presentation over the wonderful weekend trip to King Ranch & Rio Grande Valley which the club took last spring. It turned into an amazing 5-owl adventure! We start the meeting with our kick-off meal and of course, the main course will be **King Ranch Casserole!** (we coordinate the food via email). Be sure to bring spouses and friends.

Our **Saturday, Sept 16, 2017** field trip will be to the **Gulf Coast Bird Observatory in Lake Jackson, TX** to **observe mist netting, data collection on the physical condition of the migrants, and bird banding**. Please **visit their site for more information** <http://www.gcbo.org/>

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

Gary

Coming Up....

2017-2018 Tentative Meeting / Speakers Schedule

<i>Day/Date</i>	<i>Speakers-Topic</i>	<i>Events</i>
Thursday, September 14, 2017	LTVBC- King Ranch/Rio Grande Valley	<i>Kick-off Meal</i>
No Thursday Meeting in October	<i>Big Sit-Champion Lake</i>	
Thursday, November 9, 2017	<i>TBD</i>	
Thursday, December 14, 2017	LTVBC- McGee Marsh	<i>Christmas Nibbles</i>
Thursday, January 11, 2018	Shelli Ellerbe- ebird	
Thursday, February 8, 2018	<i>TBD</i>	<i>Great Backyard Bird Count</i>
Thursday, March 8, 2018	<i>TBD</i>	
NO Thursday meeting in April	"LTVBC Big Day"	
NO Thursday meeting in May	<i>Picnic</i>	

All meetings on Thursdays Night at 6:30

2017-2018 Tentative Field Trip Schedule

<i>Day/Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
Saturday, September 16, 2017	Bird Banding at GCBO- Lake Jackson, TX
Saturday, October 7, 2017	Big Sit-Champion Lake- All day
Saturday, November 18, 2017	Baytown Nature Center/San Jacinto Battleground
Your Choice	Christmas Bird Counts
Saturday, January 27, 2018	Katy Prairie
Saturday, February 17, 2018	Anahuac NWR
Saturday, March 17, 2018	Peveto Woods- Cameron, LA
Saturday, April 14, 2018	High Island, Bolivar, Anahuac
Saturday, April 21, 2018	Sabine Woods
Saturday, May 12, 2018	<i>TBD</i>

We will continue our planning for our **Weekend Trip and LTVBC Adventure** at the September meeting.

Our Weekend Trips are usually 3-day and 2-night events (leave on Friday-return on Sunday). Potential weekend trips are **East Texas (spring), Hodges Gardens, LA (spring), or South Padre Island (possibly fly)**.

The LTVBC Adventure is usually a 6-10 day trip to fabulous birding locations. Possible adventures are **California- West Coast (fall/winter), Maine- Canada (June) or Pico Benito, Honduras (June)**. We hope to finalize our plans by October.

Introduction to Birding Class *Summer 2017*

The LTVBC taught our second *Introduction to Birding Class* in June 2017. We had 14 people register for the course and 13 people completed the 3-week course. It was very interesting mix of participants this year from experienced birders to complete novice birders; the group worked well together and all seemed to benefit and enjoy the class.

It is always a success when we make new friends, introduce new people to birding, and share our love of birding. Hopefully, we will continue to see some of the class at our future activities.

LTVBC members helping with the class were **Gary Holmes, Lisa Holmes, Rene O'Connor, Shelli Ellerbe, Jim Hardy, Patty Hardy** and **David Knutson**.



The 2017 Introduction to Birding class at JJ Mays Wildlife Trace

Joyce Rubash

November 10, 1930 - July 13, 2017

Friend and long-time LTVBC Member and Treasurer



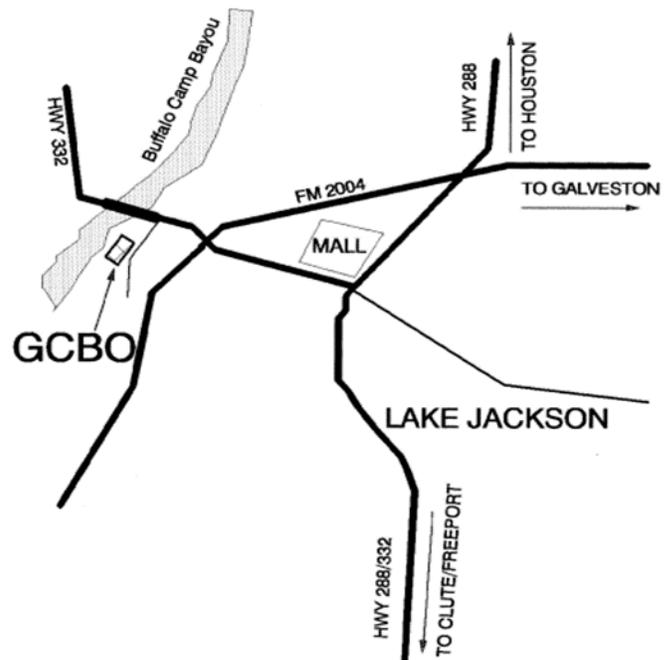
Joyce (center with cane) and the LTVBC in Tobago, Summer 2016

Joyce Fae Rubash, age 87 of Liberty, passed away at her residence in Liberty on July 13, 2017 with her loving family by her side. Joyce was born November 10, 1930 in Liberty, daughter of the late Jacob and Adenisa Newborn. Joyce graduated from Liberty High School in 1949 and then went on to receive her Bachelor's degree in Science from the University of Houston. She was the food service director for Rice University and retired after twenty-five plus years. Joyce was a published author. She wrote the Food & Wine Dictionary. She was a member of the Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club where she served as a past treasurer. Joyce was also a past president and member of the Coterie Club. She was an avid quilter, but mostly she loved her family. She will be missed by all.

Joyce was preceded in death by her parents, husband; James Joseph Rubash, grand-son-in-law; Michael Savage, sister; Loyce Guy, and brother; J.A. Newborn. She leaves behind to cherish her memory, sons; Mark Rubash and wife Ginger of Friendswood, TX, Brad Rubash and wife Page of Ackworth, GA, grandchildren; Heather Savage, Michael Rubash, Haley Rubash, five great-grandchildren, nieces; Nena Richardson, Nancy Middlebrook, Ann Horvath and one nephew; Paul Humber.

LTVBC September Field Trip*Saturday, Sept 16, 2017***Gulf Coast Bird Observatory- Lake Jackson, TX****Bird Banding****8:00 am - 12:00 pm***Bring: lunch, drinks, chairs, and mosquito repellent***Travel Time/ Time Distance:** 1 h 26 min (88.3 miles)**Car Pool:** Meet at Dayton Brookshire's at 6:00am

You are invited to join us for our monthly bird banding program at the GCBO HQ in Lake Jackson. Licensed bird banders and GCBO Research Associates Robert and Kay Lookingbill will be banding at the sanctuary on a regular basis. Birds are captured for banding in very fine nylon nets known as "mist nets" because they are almost invisible in the environment. Captured birds are weighed and measured and their species, sex, and age are recorded. Each is fitted with an aluminum leg band with a unique number provided by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and released unharmed. If the bird is captured again, the band provides the link to retrieve this history, which then provides important information on the routes used by migrating birds, their longevity, and general physical condition.



The purpose of the project is to establish baseline data for the GCBO property on both resident and migratory bird populations. About half of the 34-acre headquarters tract is old growth Columbia Bottomland hardwood forest. The remaining acreage is partially cleared woodland with the larger trees remaining, the new constructed wetland, and the edges of Buffalo Camp Bayou. Banding will allow us to obtain information about the physical condition of migrants at this intermediate location between the coast and the bottomland forests lying well inland. Both coastal woodlots and inland bottomland forests are known to be extremely important stopover habitats for nearctic-neotropical migrants that move through the Gulf of Mexico region. Birds that are captured for banding can provide valuable information about their relative physical condition. Fat deposits, which provide the fuel necessary for the arduous undertaking of the twice annual travel of hundreds to thousands of miles, can be estimated by examining handheld birds. Recently arrived migrants generally exhibit little or no fat, as their fuel "tank" is depleted by the long flights they have just finished. The importance of stopover habitat to migrants is that it provides them with both shelter and a source of rapid replenishment of the fat reserves necessary to continue migration. In addition, bird banding is an excellent form of public outreach and education.

From Houston, take 288 south to Lake Jackson. As soon as you arrive in Lake Jackson, take a right onto 2004 west. Continue on 2004 west to the 2nd traffic light, which will be HWY 332, turn west (right). On 332 you will see the Girl Scout camp on the left, then just before you get to the bridge over Buffalo Camp Bayou take a left onto a semi-paved road. Look for the large white sign with our name in blue letters. Drive down through the blue gate and through the woods to our building on the right. You cannot see the building from the road.



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 2016-17.
Please make checks payable to LTVBC.
Address on front of newsletter.

___ Student Membership	\$10.00
___ Individual Membership	\$20.00
___ Family Membership	\$35.00
___ Sponsor Membership	\$50.00

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P.O. Box 6051

Liberty, TX 77575