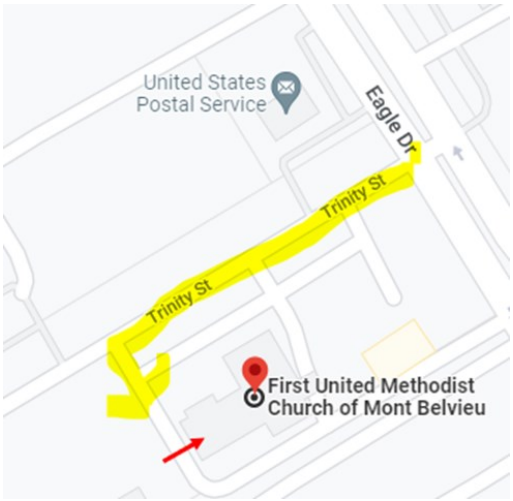
THE WOOD DUCK

Newsletter #263 | Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club | September 2022

www.LowerTrinityValleyBirdClub.org ~ PO Box 6051 Liberty, Texas 77575

LTVBC Meeting September 2022

The September meeting of the LOWER TRINITY VALLEY BIRD CLUB will be held on, **Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 6:30 p.m**. at:



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.

Our presentation for September will be over **Arizona Birding** by **David Bradford.**

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.

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It's time to pay your membership dues for 2022. See last page.

President's Message *by Gary Holmes*

Hello Bird Club:

Hope everyone had a good summer! The LTVBC had a wonderful trip to the **Davis Mountains** in August with great friends. The weather was exceptional, the landscape beautiful, and the birds fantastic.

Lisa and I had some excellent birding this summer with three **California Condors** at the Grand Canyon, a **Snail Kite** at Lake Somerville, and **seven species of hummingbirds** in the Davis Mountains.

At the **LTVBC picnic**, we made great plans for our 2022-2023 birding year. We have exciting speakers and monthly field trips scheduled, along with a weekend trip to the **Hazel Bazemore HawkWatch** on Sept 30-Oct 2, 2022**.** Our two options for the 2023 LTVBC Adventure are **Rio Grande Valley** (spring) or **Southeast Arizona** (summer). We will decide on the location this fall**.** We appreciate **Shelli** and **Steve Ellerbe** hosting the picnic.

We will start the new birding year with our meeting on **Thursday, Sept 8, 2022**. The presentation will be over **Arizona Birding** by **David Bradford**. We will meet this year in Mont Belvieu at the Methodist Church on Eagle Drive. Our September field trip will be to **JJ Mayes Wildlife Trace** on Saturday, September 17, 2022.

Hope to see you at one or all of our September activities…… Gary

LTVBC Field Trip
Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022

JJ Mayes Wildlife Trace
8:00-11:00 am

Bring: binoculars, mosquito repellant, spotting scopes and water/snacks.

Meet the parking lot on the left at the picnic area.
We will drive the levee road and walk trails.

Hazel Bazemore Hawk-watch, Corpus Christi, TX
Weekend Trip: 9/30 - 10/2 (FRI- SUN)

The LTVBC fall weekend trip will be to one of the top hawk-watching sites in North America, the Hazel Bazemore Hawk Tower**.** With a three day stay, we hope to have at least one day of favorable wind. A good day will show 20,000-70,000 hawks, and a truly spectacular day will show over 100,000. Of course, we will bird other sites in the area.

Trip details in the next few weeks.

https://midcoast-tmn.org/hazel-bazemore-hawkwatch/

One of the great spectacles in South Texas nature is a sky full of swirling raptors soaring their way to Central and South America for the winter. Mid-August to mid-November is hawk migration time. The peak time is late September and early October. One of the top hawk-watching sites in North America is the viewing tower at Hazel Bazemore County Park, which sits at a horseshoe bend on the southern bank of the Nueces River in Calallen on the northwest side of Corpus Christi. Annual counts have exceeded a million birds.

Corpus Christi is the only HawkWatch site in North America where you have a chance of seeing Swallow-tailed Kites, White-tailed Kites, Mississippi Kites, Zone-tailed Hawks, Short-tailed Hawks, White-tailed Hawks, and Harris's Hawks. Not to mention Broad-Wings, Swainson's, Cooper's—the list goes on. The Researchers/Hawkwatchers are wonderful about helping visitors with identification and other information.

LTVBC September Activities

Sept. 8, 2022 -Thursday:
LTVBC Meeting 6:30- 8:00 pm in Mont Belvieu

September 17, 2022- Saturday:
JJ Mayes Wildlife Trace Field Trip 8am - 11am

Sept 30-Oct 2, 2022 - Friday, Saturday, Sunday:
Hazel Bazemore HawkWatch - Corpus Christi

Davis Mountains Big Adventure

August 18 - 23, 2022

Our 2022 summer birding adventure was to the Davis Mountains. We had seventeen participants and identified 99 species of birds. The highlight of the trip was the wonderful day we spent at **Beth McBroom's Cabin** in the Davis Mountain Resort with seven species of hummingbirds: **Rufous, Calliope, Black-chinned, Lucifer, Ruby-throated, Broad-tailed, and Rivoli's.**

Back: Barbara Tilton, Lisa Holmes, Ceal & Jim Tomlinson, Bernice & Ed Jackson, and Julia Garret
Front: Shelli Ellerbe, Annie Benzon, Billie Brinkley, Margo Taylor, and Beth McBroom
not pictured: John & Mary Pike, Gary Holmes and Kay & Mike Shroyer

A special thanks to Beth for allowing the club to visit and for all her efforts with the hummingbirds. Our December meeting will feature a full presentation over this exciting trip.

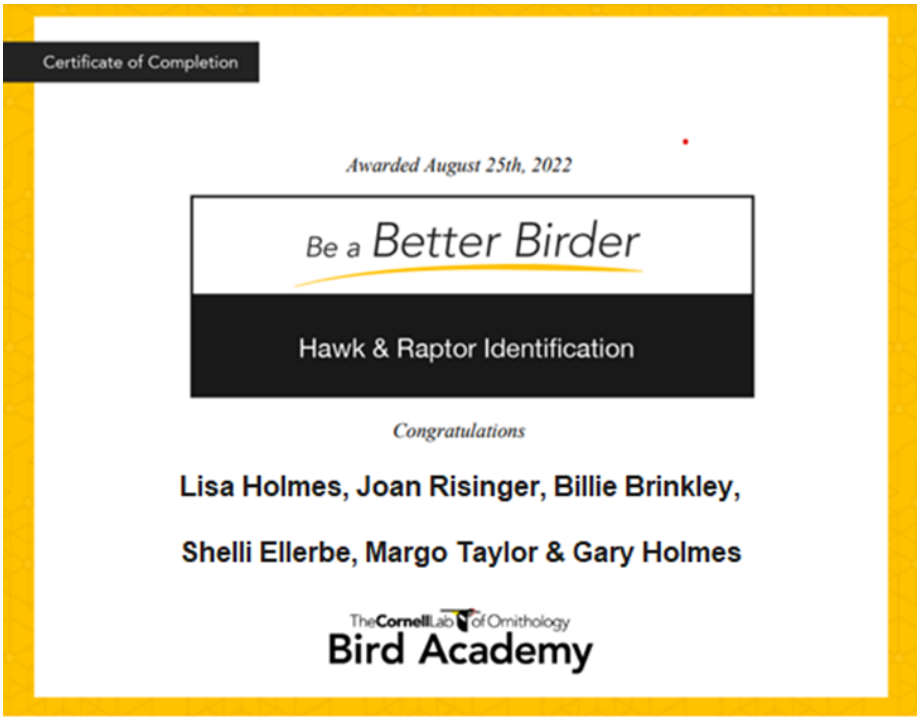
LTVBC Event Calendar
Always subject to change

Day/Date	Time	Event	Location	Speaker	Notes
Thursday, September 8, 2022	6:30 PM	Meeting	FMC - Mont Belvieu	David Bradford	Birding Arizona
Saturday, September 17, 2022		Field Trip	JJ Mayes Wildlife Trace		
Friday, September 30, 2022 Sunday, October 2, 2022	thru	Weekend Field Trip	Hazel Bazemore HawkWatch Corpus Christie, TX		
Thursday, October 13, 2022			No Meeting		
Saturday, October 15, 2022	all day	Field Day	Champion Lake		Big Sit
Thursday, November 10, 2022	6:30 PM	Meeting	FMC - Mont Belvieu	TBD	Shorebirds
Saturday, November 19, 2022		Field Trip	Galveston/Bolivar		
December			Christmas Bird Counts		
Thursday, December 8, 2022	6:30 PM	Meeting	FMC - Mont Belvieu	Club Members	Davis Mts. Adventure Christmas Nibbles Life List Pins
Thursday, January 12, 2023	6:30 PM	Meeting	FMC - Mont Belvieu	TBD	Duck ID
Saturday, January 21, 2023		Field Trip	Anahuac NWR		
Thursday, February 9, 2023	6:30 PM	Meeting	FMC - Mont Belvieu	Houston Zoo	Prairie Chicken Captive Breeding Program
Saturday, February 18, 2023		Field Trip	Cattail Marsh, Beaumont		
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
Tuesday, May 16, 2023		Picnic Meeting	arrangements to be decided later		

LTVBC Adventure 2023
Rio Grande Valley in spring Or Southeast Arizona in summer

Cornell Bird Academy

Be a Better Birder: Hawk and Raptor Identification



Lisa Holmes, Joan Risinger, Billie Brinkley, Shelli Ellerbe, Margo Taylor and Gary Holmes completed the comprehensive self-paced course that covers all 34 species found in the continental U.S. and Canada.

The group met 4 days this summer and applied 20+ hours each on this challenging course.

The LTVBC has unlimited access to the course, and we will use it at future meeting to review Hawk Identification.

2022-23 Duck Stamps are here!

Preserve habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Get yours at the September meeting.

$25.00

President's Note:

I met with the Parks Directors at the City of Mont Belvieu in July and offered our assistance to Mont Belvieu in their efforts in attaining ***Bird City Texas*** *certification. The certification program focuses on three areas: Community Engagement, Habitat Enhancement/Protection, and Creating Safer Spaces for Birds. Click on the links to learn more about the program.*

We should present the program to the cities of Dayton and Liberty .....Gary

What is Bird City Texas?
https://tpwd.texas.gov/wildlife/birding/bird-city-texas

This community-focused certification program was created to help people protect birds and their habitats where we live, work, and recreate. The criteria required to attain certification are designed to be impactful and efficient against habitat loss and other harmful factors impacting birds.

Research shows that bird-friendly habitat increases property values, helps control insects, and generates tourism dollars. Where birds thrive, people prosper. From urban centers to rural towns, each community can provide important habitat for birds, and certified communities will receive recognition and community benefits as a result of these efforts.

Science-based bird conservation initiatives and community-centric action will:

- Enhance and restore habitats
- Increase native plant coverage in Texas for the benefit of birds and people
- Reduce population-level threats
- Increase public awareness of the benefits and challenges of bird conservation
- Promote environmental stewardship in Texas cities

Audubon Texas and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department certified the first 4 communities in the Bird City Texas program last year: Bastrop, Dallas, Houston, and Port Aransas. Three new communities were certified in January 2021: Galveston, San Antonio, and Surfside Beach.

Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2022

Welcome: Meeting started at 4:50 PM

Baytown Birding Challenge Medals

Baytown Christian Academy Environmental Science Class- 12 students will receive the 2021 & 2022 metals

LTVBC provided the binoculars and guided the students on two field trips

Election of 2022- 2024 officers

2022- 2024 Nominations

President-	Gary Holmes
Vice-president-	Stuart Marcus
Secretary-	Rene O'Connor
Treasurer-	Shelli Ellerbe
Chronicler-	Margo Taylor
Newsletter-	Shelli Ellerbe
Presentation Coordinators -	Stuart Marcus & Lisa Holmes

Nominations from the floor - None

Vote – Denise made the motion to accept the slate of officers as written and presented. Lisa seconded. Motion passed.

LTVBC Davis Mountains Birding Adventure-2022

August 18-23, 2022, 6 days-5 nights

22 participants, 10 registered & paid for Star Party

Final itinerary in June

LTVBC 2022- 2023 Tentative Plans

Meeting & fieldtrips

2023 adventure: Rio Grande Valley or Arizona? Needs to be February or March.

Summer Birding

JJ Mayes Wildlife Trace Bird or other local sites

Thursdays at 5 pm

Cornell Ornithology Lab- Be a Better Birder: Hawk and Raptor Identification

Content: 13 Lessons, 40 Topics, 12 hours Completion time (estimated), 48 Instructional videos, 2.75 hours Total instructional video time

Level: Advanced,

Format: Self-paced, no expiration date, 100% online- can make up missed sessions

Meet; every two weeks throughout the summer, four 3-hour session

Location: Various member's homes?

Cost: $129.22- split between the participants, LTVBC will own rights

Class: size 6-8

Margo, Shelli, Gary, and Lisa all liked the idea.

Your Best 2021-2022 Birding Experience – Everyone participated in the conversation and it was a good year for bird watching.

LOWER TRINITY VALLEY BIRD CLUB

Membership Information

Check us out on Facebook! https://www.facebook.com/groups/98618981435/

There is still time to pay your 2022 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