



THE WOOD DUCK



Newsletter #264

Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club

November 2022

www.LowerTrinityValleyBirdClub.org

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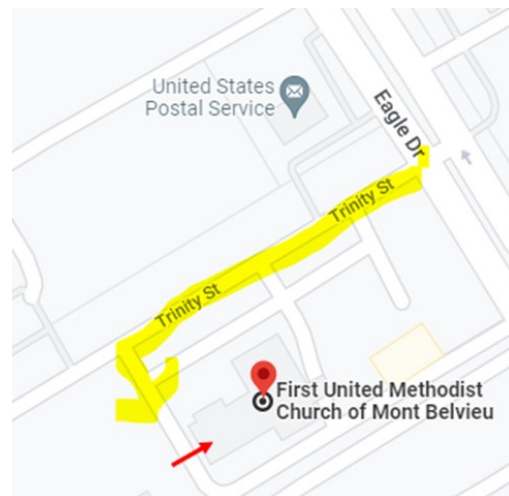
PO Box 6051 Liberty, Texas 77575

LTVBC Meeting November 2022

LOWER TRINITY VALLEY BIRD CLUB

Thursday, November 10, 2022 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.

For our presentation Paul and Colette Micallef will talk about their birding trip to Alaska. 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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President's Message by Gary Holmes

We are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Lower Trinity Valley this year. The bird club is dedicated to the development/encouragement of new birders, recreational /educational study of birds, and the conservation of birds and their habitats. Our members have spent many wonderful hours admiring, and enjoying our wonderful birds and nature, and have made many great memories and friends. We will be having special events and activities to commemorate our anniversary.



Champion Lake is low which has attracted a huge number of Wood storks and Great Egrets - they can wade and feed almost the entire lake.

The September LTVBC meeting had a great presentation from David Bradford over birding in Southeast Arizona. **Our Big Sit at Champion Lake** was a success. We staffed the circle for 10 hours, identified 54 species and had fifteen participants. (See article)

Our **next meeting** will be on **Thursday, November 10** at the Methodist Church in Mont Belview with a special presentation from **Paul and Colette Micallef** over their Alaska Birding Trip. Our field trip is on **Saturday, Nov. 19**, we will bird Galveston East End and Bolivar. Last year the trip was fabulous, with thousands of American Avocets and many American Oyster Catchers on the oyster beds at low tide.

Also, we will continue planning for our 2023 Summer Birding adventure, we will choose between **The Rio Grande Valley in the spring** or **Southeast Arizona in early August 2023**.

Hope you can attend both November activities....*Gary*

LTVBC Event Calendar

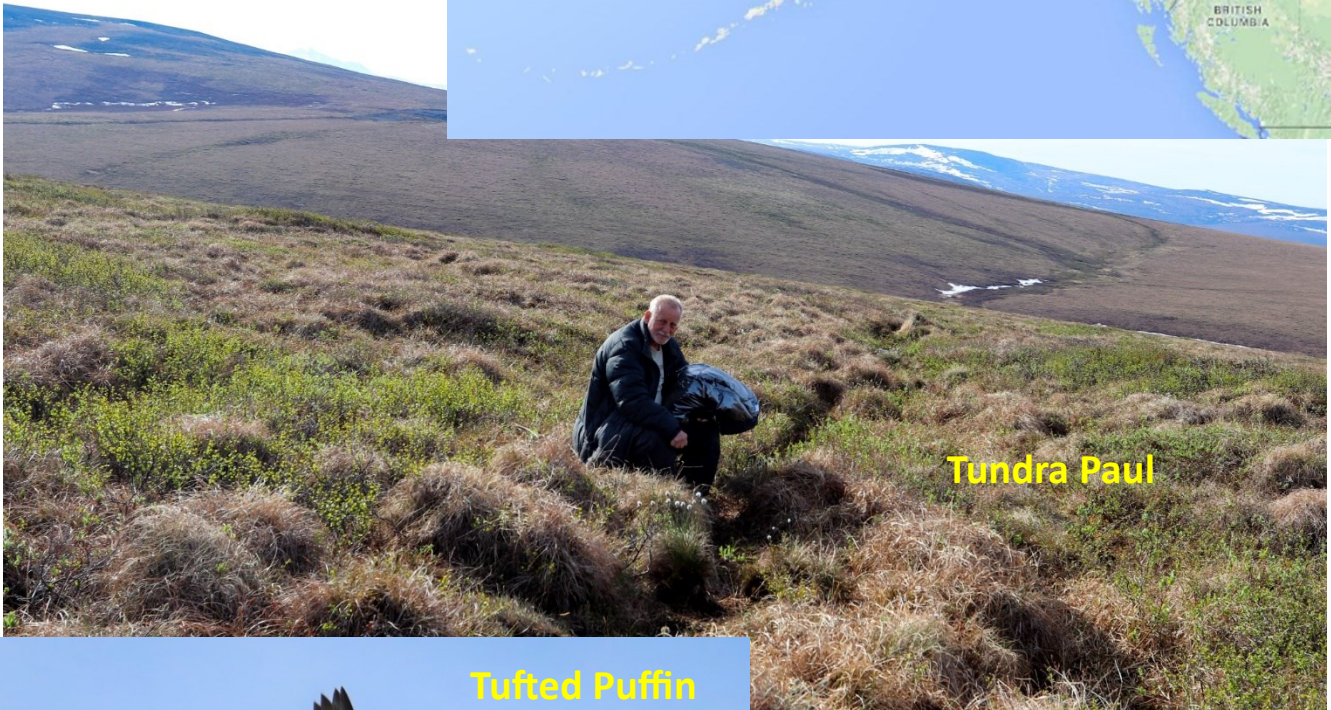
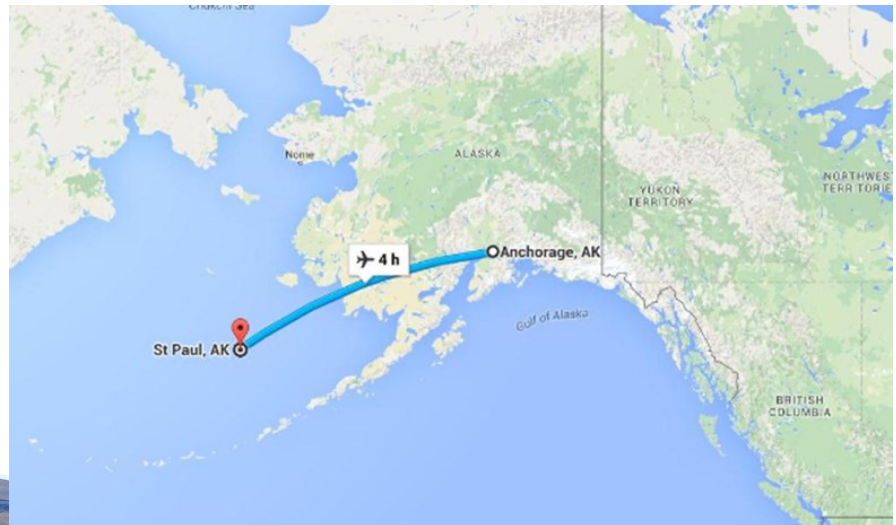
Always subject to change

Day/Date	Time	Event	Location	Speaker	Notes
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
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		

November Presentation: Birding Alaska & St. Paul Island *by Paul & Colette Micallef*

Paul and Colette will be sharing images and stories about their summer Alaska Trip at our Nov. 10, 2022 meeting.

They spent 4 weeks in Alaska and visited many remote locations including St Paul Island. More than 310 species of birds have been recorded on the island with many rare birds, including Siberian vagrants.



LTVBC 30th Anniversary!

The first LTVBC meeting was on May 9, 1992. We are working on plans for our 30th anniversary celebration. Current ideas are:

A LTVBC Reunion in February- for all our past and present members

Develop a 30th Anniversary T- Shirt

Honor Jan Dauphin for the importance that David and she were to the development of the club.

Honor founding members and past officers

Please come up with additional ideas. Below is a picture of the some of the club's founders and statement by Pam Hardy Milentz.



L to R: Mary Ann Calhoon, Pam Milentz, Jolois Horback, David Dauphin, Ellen Pickett

"I am the only living member of this group. We, Jody, Ellen and Mary Ann, all went to Sterling Library in Baytown, Texas to hear David Dauphin do a presentation about local birding. We all were so excited and inspired by David Dauphin's talk, we discussed having him come to Liberty to speak. He graciously accepted the invitation to speak at the Humphrey Center in Liberty.

We publicized this Birding Program in the local papers and radio station and were completely overwhelmed /surprised by the numbers of birders who showed up! I had friends that had been quietly birding for years that came with a passion. So, Mary Ann, Ellen, and Jody met around my kitchen table to talk about starting a Bird Club in Liberty. David Dauphin shared some legal documents to get us started and then led many educational field trips to get us headed in the right direction.

I am grateful for the many wonderful programs, field trips and knowledge about birding worldwide. I still bird wherever I travel, but my favorite birds are those in my own backyard."

Pam Hardy Milentz, 2018

JJ Mayes Field Trip

Sept 17, 2022

Reported by Joe Hall

On September 17, explorative LTVBC members **Lisa and Gary Holmes, Jim and Patty Hardy, Joe Hall, and Marvin Masters** including first-timers, **Joan Risinger and Cindy Riggins**, searched the dry lakebeds of the JJ Mayes Wildlife Trace for avian life. The lack of water in normally verdant ponds made the day somewhat problematic, as did rusty bird identification skills. But the birders carried on, getting tuned up for Autumn Birding.



Ducks and wading birds were in short supply due to the dry conditions. Only two coots were seen--which as any veteran JJ Mayes visitor can tell you is not the normal coot population for the site. But a flock of **Least Sandpipers** working a drying puddle put on an acrobatic display, both entertaining and informative.

Later, in a non-sanctioned side-trip to the boat ramp across the Trinity River, Marvin and Joe were able to get good looks at terns sitting out a rainstorm on USACE structures and two groups of ducks at roadside ponds: a group of young Blue-winged teal with one adult female and a large group of teenage, Black-bellied Whistling ducks escorted by their parents.



We identified 33 Species, follow this link for complete list. [JJ Mayes Sept, 17, 2022](#)



Big Sit 2022
Good Time Birding Award
 presented to
Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club

Report by Joe Hall

On October 15, LTVBC members met at the Champion Lake Pier for the 2022 Big Sit-Autumn's most low-impact- birding event. LTVBC attendees were **Marvin Masters, Paul Fagala, Barbara Tilton, Lisa Holmes, Margo Taylor, Shelli Ellerbe, Renie O'Connor, Joe Hall, Gary Holmes, Paul Micallef and Colette Micallef.**

The LTVBC was joined by a class of proto- Master Naturalists, shepherded by Shelli; braving clear skies and moderate temperatures (until late afternoon) to experience first-hand the challenging world of Champion Lake Extreme Big Sit Birding where every participant is at constant threat of getting a nice suntan while dozing off in warm sunshine in a lawn chair by a lake.

Prospective Master Naturalist candidates in attendance were **Crystal Hendrick** and **Rita Wright.** Joining the crew at the pier was **Brian Cain**, wildlife expert, who shared his knowledge of nature, and Black-bellied Whistling Ducks in particular, with the group. Lake levels were low but ducks and wading birds seemed to like the shallow water and old-time favorites were seen in good numbers. Unlike past years no cormorants were logged, and a healthy number of raptors were seen. Perching birds were also in short supply.

Late afternoon participants Paul, Colette and Joe were visited by several sundogs, heralding a cooler change in the weather. Marvin Masters provided a surprise door prize--an attractive and useful handmade potholder with the initials of the LTVBC worked into it, which was won by Shelli.

Fifty-four species were tallied, a very respectable effort by the LTVBC for this year's Big Sit.

[LTVBC Big Sit Bird List- 2022](#)



Haikubox- Uses AI to Identify Birds Automatically & Continuously

Haikubox works 24/7 to collect every song and chirp, and these data tell stories about migration patterns, when species are active, and seasonal change.

Haikubox, a ground-breaking AI-enabled consumer product that automatically and continuously detects and identifies backyard birds using their sounds. Haikubox offers an easy way to "bird by ear," an important birdwatching skill since many birds are camouflaged or don't visit bird feeders. Features and benefits of Haikubox include:

Never miss a bird. Without a Haikubox, a consumer would never know that the neighborhood Barred Owl was singing all night. Haikubox can send an alert with the first "hoot" and users can listen to recordings and view spectrograms (visual representation of sound) at their convenience

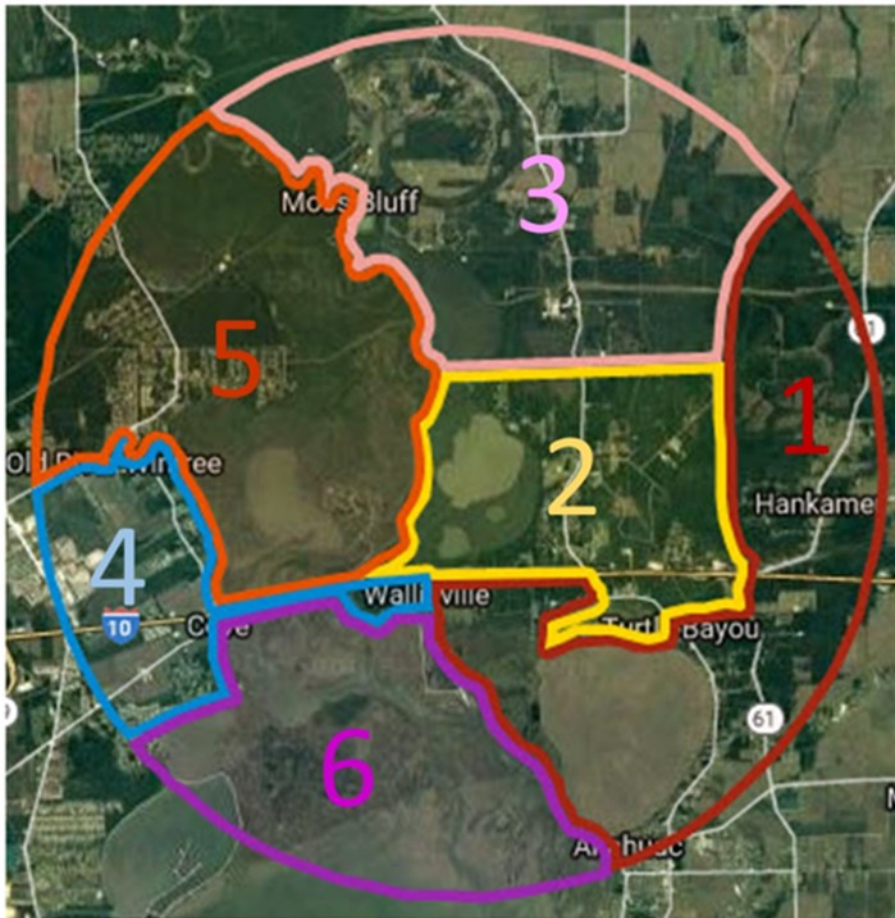
Impact scientific research. Through a unique partnership with the K. Lisa Yang Center for Conservation Bioacoustics at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, each Haikubox owner will be a citizen-scientist, part of a vast network collecting the largest dataset of bird behavior ever assembled and allowing research on the impact of climate change, habitat loss, pesticide use, and other human-caused environmental change.



Big Sit Photos



Old River Christmas Bird Count Areas



Old River Christmas Bird Count Monday, January 2, 2023

The Old River Christmas Bird Count will be held on Monday, January 2, 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 - Todd Crawley
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 bird 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.

Countdown dinner: Tony's BBQ in Mont Belvieu

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

Meeting Minutes September 8, 2022



President Gary Holmes called the meeting to order at 6:32. He welcomed and introduced our visitors. Cindy, Joan, Margaret, and speaker David Bradford.

Secretary: Lisa Holmes Minutes - Shelli Ellerbe moved to approve the minutes and Stuart Marcus seconded. Motion Passed!

Treasurers Report – Shelli Ellerbe

Checking \$1,767.30

Dues \$ 395.00

Savings \$1,047.94

Dues are due. Shelli has Duck Stamps to Sell. New Stamp is Red Head Duck. \$25 Keychain \$2. Club Patches are available, as well. Lower Trinity Basin Master Naturalists have new Upper Texas Coast Great Wildlife Trail maps.

Old Business – no old business

New Business

LTVBC 30th Anniversary

A LTVBC Reunion on a Saturday- for all our past/present members and guests

Planning Committee

location, dates, publicity/invitations, refreshments

Develop a 30th Anniversary T- Shirt (for sale or accept donations)

Honor Jan Dauphin for the importance that David and she were to the development of the club.

Honor founding members and past officers

Create a LTVBC-30 Birding Team to participate in one or more of Texas Birding Classic Tournaments

Update Club scrapbook/ history

Celebration Publicity and news stories

2022-2023 LTVBC Plans

We need to choose which adventure to go on this year. Arizona or Rio Grande Valley? (Decision by November)

Meeting & field trips

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

Hazel Bazemore Hawk watch

Any participants?

Leader-to make plans, locate hotels

Club growth: new members, publicity

Bird City, Texas

Develop a presentation

Volunteers to present to city councils

Target cities- Mont Belvieu, Dayton, Liberty, Anahuac

Future Events

September 17, 2022- Saturday:

JJ Mayes Wildlife Trace Fieldtrip 8am- 11am

Sept 30-Oct 2, 2022 - Friday, Saturday, Sunday:

Hazel Bazemore Hawkwatch -Corpus Christi

Oct. 15, 2022, Saturday

Meeting/Big Sit at Champion Lake

Bird Tales- any interesting birds this summer?

Gary went over the calendar for the year. We need to decide on our trips this year. AZ or the Rio Grande. We will discuss next meeting.

Stuart Marcus introduced our speaker David Bradford who was a past member of the LTVBC. Everyone welcomed David. His program was 'Southeast AZ, The Sky Island!'

Submitted by,

Lisa Holmes

Meeting Minutes



October 15, 2022

The Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club met Saturday, October 15, 2022, at the Trinity River Wildlife Refuge Champion Lake Pier, Dayton, Texas. Nine members and three guests were present at this month's meeting. President Gary Holmes called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Treasurer's Report:

Checking Account: \$1,767.30

Savings Account: 1,047.94

Old Business:

This year is the 30th anniversary of the Club. We are planning a reunion on February 25, 2023. Shelli Ellerbe made a motion to sell tickets for \$10.00/person. Renie O'Connor seconded, all agreed and the motion was approved. More discussion regarding the reunion will be at the November and December meetings.

New Business:

The field trip for November 19, 2022, will be to Galveston and Bolivar.

We will have our Davis Mountain trip presentation at the December Meeting.

The November meeting will be held in Mont Belvieu.

A door prize was given my Marvin Masters and won by Shelli Ellerbe.

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

Renie O'Connor
Secretary



2022-23 Duck Stamps are here!
Preserve habitat for birds and other wildlife.
Get yours at the next meeting.
\$25.00



Bolivar Flats/Galveston Fieldtrip Saturday, Nov 18, 2022

Port Bolivar
sunrise 6:45am, sunset 5:22pm.
low tide 8:31am, high tide 11:16am

Meet at Galveston Ferry Landing at 7:30 am

8:15am - Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary On this massive tidal flat, you can find large numbers of gulls, terns, and shorebirds feeding at low tide. Flocks roost here when the tide is high. American Avocets winter on the flat.

Bolivar Beach parking stickers are required to park between Rettillon Rd and the vehicular barrier. The stickers are available at most convenience stores on the peninsula.

Directions Take TX 87 to Loop 108/Rettillon then go south to the beach. Follow the shoreline west to Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary, at the base of the North Jetty.



Rd.

10:00 Bolivar North Jetty, one of the two jetties which guard the entrance to Galveston Bay and the ship channel, is 1.7 miles from the Ferry Landing. Turn on 17th Street, the road dead-ends at the North Jetty.

11:30 Lunch- bring lunch or eat at a Port Bolivar Restaurant

12:30 pm Bird Around Port Bolivar

Afternoon Return on Ferry and Bird Galveston East End

The East End Lagoon Nature Park and Preserve (EEL) is located on Galveston Island, Texas. A project of the Galveston Park Board of Trustees, the City of Galveston and the Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council, the EEL is a unique and valuable area spanning almost 700 acres of diverse habitat on the barrier island's east end.

Directions: The East End Lagoon Nature Park and Preserve is located on Galveston Island at the east end of Seawall Blvd along Boddecker Dr. adjacent to Apffel Park (East Beach).



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