



THE WOOD DUCK



Newsletter #230

December 2017

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

Editor: Shelli Ellerbe

December Meeting Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club

Thursday, December 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.



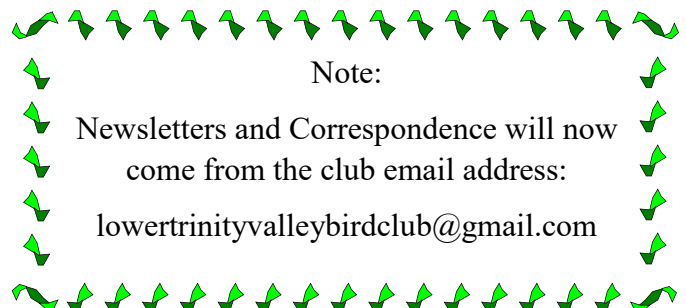
Meeting Presentation

Our presentation for December will be over the **2017 LTVBC McGee Marsh - Kirkland Warbler Trip**

Last May, six members of the LTVBC spent 5 days in Ohio and Michigan looking for spring migrants and the nesting Kirkland warblers. The presentation will feature photographs and memories of this remarkable trip.

Before the presentation we will have our annual “Christmas Nibbles.” Be sure to bring your favorite finger food. We will coordinate food through e-mails the week of the meeting.

As always, all are invited, and visitors are welcome.



Note:

Newsletters and Correspondence will now
come from the club email address:

lowertrinityvalleybirdclub@gmail.com

President's Report

By Gary Holmes

Hello Bird Club:

On Saturday evening after Thanksgiving, a group on at least 100 **Wood Ducks** were behind the house - they would make quick and nervous dashes to the oak trees to eat acorns. The group stayed for about 30 minutes and made 5-6 acorn dashes before they left. I have never seen more than 20 **Wood Ducks** in a group until that evening. See the video <https://www.facebook.com/groups/98618981435/>



Lisa Holmes has completed and launched our **new website**. It is NICE!!

<https://www.lowertrinityvalleybirdclub.org/>

work as our webmaster.

We would like to thank **Paul Douglas Newton** for all his past

At our November meeting **Paul and Madeline McNeely** gave an interesting talk over birding Bulgaria. We had a great turn-out of 19 people for the Baytown Nature Center field trip with a surprising sighting of two **Brown Boobies**. (see article in this newsletter)

Our presentation for December will be over the **2017 LTVBC McGee Marsh - Kirkland Warbler Trip**. The presentation will feature photographs and memories from all who participated in the excursion. Also, we will continue our planning for our **summer adventure to Maine**. We will also begin a discussion of a possible **4-day weekend trip to Brownsville**, which could include hotspots like Resaca de la Palma SP, Fish Hatchery Road, Palo Alto NHS, Padre Island Blvd., TNC Southmost Preserve, Sabal Palm Audubon Grove and the Brownsville dump.

We will have our **annual "Christmas Nibbles"** before the meeting. Be sure to bring your favorite finger food. We will coordinate food through e-mails the week of the meeting.

We have no scheduled LTVBC field trip this month -it is **Christmas Bird Count Time!** The local counts that we usually support are:

Houston [Baytown] (TXHO) Saturday, December 23, 2017

Trinity River (TXTN) Thursday, December 28, 2017 (Tarkington)

Old River (TXOR) Tuesday, January 2, 2017

The bird counts do not require expert birders – the key is to have more eyes in each group so birds are not overlooked.

I hope to see everyone at the **December 14th meeting**. We will have a great presentation, good food and good friends ... Bring a guest!!

See you on Thursday,

Gary



Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2017

The **Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club** met Thursday, November 9, 2017, at the First Liberty National Bank Corner in Liberty, Texas. President Gary Holmes called the meeting to order at 6:30PM. Eleven members were present at this month's meeting. Stuart Marcus made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 2017 meeting as published in the October 2017 *Wood Duck* #228. Denise Barkis seconded, all agreed, and the motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Current checking account balance is \$1,794.49. We incurred expenses in the amount of \$249.60 for the summer birding class. We received \$130.00 for dues. Current balance in the David Dauphin Memorial account is \$1,020.05 which includes \$0.21 in interest.

Old Business:

- The 2018 LTVBC Adventure (6-8 Days) will be to Maine in June. The trip will be limited to 10 participants. If interested, please contact Gary Holmes.
- This month's field trip will be to the Baytown Nature Center and the San Jacinto Battleground on Saturday, November 18th.

New Business:

- The Bird Club has a new e-mail address: lowertrinityvalleybirdclub@gmail.com.
- We have a new Web page. Renie O'Connor made a motion to create a new web page (with no ads). Joe Hall seconded, all agreed and the motion was approved. Lisa Holmes has done a beautiful job in setting up this new address: www.lowertrinityvalleybirdclub.org
- Field trips in December will be the annual Christmas Bird Counts. Please check the Audubon Web site for information or our December *Wood Duck*.

Speaker Presentation: Paul and Madeline McKneely gave a great presentation of "Birding in Bulgaria: Crossroads between Europe and Asia".

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

Renie O'Connor, Secretary

Baytown Nature Center/San Jacinto Battleground
Saturday, November 18, 2017
reported by Gary Holmes



We have a great turn-out for the Baytown Nature Center/San Jacinto Battleground, with 19 participants and 62 species identified. We were rewarded with a life-birds for many of the group - two **Brown Boobies**. We were able to call-up **Marsh Wrens** and **Nelson's Sparrows**. We identified a total of 54 species at BNC including 14 **Hooded Mergansers** and one **Monk Parakeet**. (full list, next page)

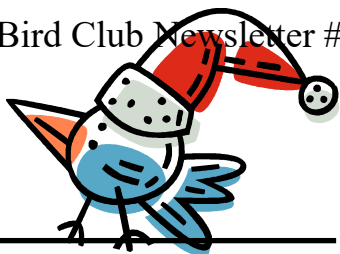
At the San Jacinto Battleground, we picked-up eight more species- beautiful **American Avocets**, **Gadwalls** and some huge mosquitos. Eleven of the group finished the day with a wonderful seafood lunch at the Monument Inn.

Participants included: **Ed and Bernice Jackson, Lisa and Gary Holmes, Patty and Jim Hardy, Shelli Ellerbe, Margo Taylor, Rene O'Connor, Mary Hannigan, Barbara Tilton, Ceal Stirling, Stuart Marcus, Joe Hall, Marvin Masters, Mark Rubash, Kay Shroyer, Terrie Ford and Dennis Outlaw.**



- 1 **Gadwall**
- 2 **duck sp.**
- 3 **Great Blue Heron**
- 4 **Great Egret**
- 5 **Snowy Egret**
- 6 **Black Vulture**
- 7 **Osprey**
- 8 **Northern Harrier**
- 9 **American Avocet**
- 10 **Belted Kingfisher**
- 11 **Red-bellied Woodpecker**
- 12 **American Kestrel**
- 13 **Eastern Phoebe**
- 14 **Loggerhead Shrike**

San Jacinto Battleground list



Bird Tales

From Joe Hall: On November 19, Marvin Masters and Joe Hall braved a punishing north wind at the top of the Smith Point Hawk Watch Tower to watch a dozen species of raptors circle in kettles at the edge of land and sea. At least 700 **turkey and black vultures** were seen and various **red-tailed hawk** color-morphs posed for photography. **White Pelicans, a Wood Stork, Sandhill Cranes, Snow Geese** and a batch of eight **Ross's Geese** trailing a large flock of Snow Geese were also seen at the tower. Throughout the morning, flights of **goldfinches** and **bluebirds** bombed into the oak trees of the motte in front of the tower. In a drying pond off the road to Robbins Park **three species of teal, green-wing, blue wing and cinnamon** were seen mucking about along with **Gadwalls, white and dark ibises, shorebirds and roseate spoonbills.**

Baytown Nature Center, November 18, 2017

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Snow Goose | 16 Black-crowned Night-Heron | |
| 2 Wood Duck | 17 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron | |
| 3 Hooded Merganser | 18 White Ibis | 31 American Kestrel |
| 4 duck sp. | 19 Roseate Spoonbill | 32 Monk Parakeet |
| 5 Pied-billed Grebe | 20 Black Vulture | 33 Eastern Phoebe |
| 6 Brown Booby | 21 Osprey | 34 Loggerhead Shrike |
| 7 Neotropic Cormorant | 22 Red-shouldered Hawk | 35 Blue Jay |
| 8 Double-crested Cormorant | 23 Red-tailed Hawk | 36 Carolina Chickadee |
| 9 American White Pelican | 24 Killdeer | 37 House Wren |
| 10 Brown Pelican | 25 Spotted Sandpiper | 38 Marsh Wren |
| 11 Great Blue Heron | 26 Laughing Gull | 39 Carolina Wren |
| 12 Great Egret | 27 Caspian Tern | 40 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher |
| 13 Snowy Egret | 28 Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) | 41 Ruby-crowned Kinglet |
| 14 Little Blue Heron | 29 Belted Kingfisher | 42 Gray Catbird |
| 15 Tricolored Heron | 30 Red-bellied Woodpecker | 43 Northern Mockingbird |
| | | 44 European Starling |
| | | 45 Orange-crowned Warbler |
| | | 46 Yellow-rumped Warbler |
| | | 47 Nelson's Sparrow |
| | | 48 Seaside Sparrow |
| | | 49 White-throated Sparrow |
| | | 50 Swamp Sparrow |
| | | 51 Northern Cardinal |
| | | 52 Red-winged Blackbird |
| | | 53 Brown-headed Cowbird |
| | | 54 Great-tailed Grackle |
| | | 55 House Sparrow |

From Shelli Ellerbe: On November 10-12, Margo Taylor and Shelli Ellerbe went to Harlingen, Texas for the Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival. We had a great time on our field trips seeing birds and meeting new people. The guides were exceptional. Our first field trip was to look for **Aplomado falcon**, but we dipped on the bird. The trip did a detour to chase the **Tamaulipas crow** that was being reported at the Brownsville dump, but we missed that bird, too. Our our second day, we went on a shorebird id tour for the morning and a parrot tour in the evening. The third day we were supposed to go on a trip that would also do ebird training, but we skipped it and went back to look for the falcon. After multiple trips back and forth on a muddy road a birder we had exchanged phone numbers with called to say they had found the falcon. Of course, we were at the opposite end of the road. On more trip down the road and we had the **Aplomado falcon**, too.

On November 26th, Collette Micallef texted to let me know the **Tamaulipas crow** as being seen at East Beach on Galveston Island. I picked up Margo and we raced to the beach. Spotted the crow immediately, got a decent look, and it was gone. The Micallef's missed it, they were 3 minutes behind us. Fortunately, they found it a few days later in Brazoria county.

Coming Up....

2017-2018 Meeting/Speakers Schedule		
Day/Date	Speakers - Topic	Events
Thursday, December 14, 2017	LTVBC - McGee Marsh	Christmas Nibbles
Thursday, January 11, 2018	Shelli Ellerbe - ebird	
Thursday, February 8, 2018	David Sarkozi in Main Birding	Great Backyard Bird Count
Thursday, March 8, 2018	TBD	
No Thursday meeting in April	"LTVBC Big Day"	
No Thursday meeting in May	Picnic	
All meetings on Thursdays Night at 6:30		

2017-2018 Field Trip Schedule	
Day/Date	Location
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

Meeting Field Trip Discussion:

We will discuss a potential 4-day weekend trip to **Brownsville/South Padre Island** (possibly fly).

The 2018 LTVBC Adventure (6-8 days) will be to **Maine - Canada (June)**. The trip will be limited to 10 participants. Reserve your spot now!

Maine Trip Reservation (limited to 10 participants)	
1	Gary H
2	Lisa H
3	Shelli E
4	Margo T
5	Barbara T
6	Stuart M
7	Denise B
8	
9	
10	
stand-by	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Counts 2017-2018

<http://houstonaudubon.org/birding/bird-surveys/christmas-bird-counts/>

All CBCs are FREE to all participants! The annual CBC report is an online publication and National Audubon relies on donations for funding. Introduce your children and grandchildren to CBCs! Many of the counts are kid-friendly. Check with the compiler for suitability and any special guidelines. See the web address above for more details and more counts.

Local Counts that LTVBC supports are:

Houston [Baytown] (TXHO) Saturday, December 23, 2017

This count includes the area around Baytown. All levels of experience are encouraged to participate! Area leaders please email your availability so we can plan accordingly. David Sarkozi and Stennie Meadours will be co-compilers.

Those wishing to participate should contact Stennie (stenmead@aol.com). [CBC Map by David Sarkozi](#)

Trinity River (TXTN) Thursday, December 28, 2017

Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge will be hosting the 19th Annual Trinity River Christmas Bird Count for northern Liberty County. Areas to be counted include the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge, Tarkington Prairie, and Gaylor Lake. Some folks will bird the "bottoms" so be sure to bring a sack lunch, rubber knee boots and other appropriate outdoor clothing. The wrap-up dinner will be held at the Texas Seafood & Steakhouse restaurant in Cleveland. Birdwatchers of all levels are welcome.

If you have any questions you can contact the compiler, Stuart Marcus, at 936-336-9786 or stuart_marcus@fws.gov.

Old River (TXOR) Tuesday, January 2, 2018

The count covers all points within 7.5 miles of Lake Charlotte. This is less than an hour's drive east of Houston. Running through the count area is the Trinity River providing diverse habitat near water.

For more information contact Count Compiler, David Hanson DHanson139@aol.com.

Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club



Click here



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?

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geholmes52@gmail.com

You'll get full color pictures and live links.
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\$ _____

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Send newsletter by ____ email or ____ mail

**It's time to pay
dues for 2017-18.**
**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

Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club

P.O. Box 6051

Liberty, TX 77575