



THE WOOD DUCK



Newsletter #229

November 2017

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

Editor: Shelli Ellerbe

November Meeting Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club

Thursday, November 9, 2017

6:30 pm

The FLNB Corner

1822 Sam Houston Ave., Liberty

Note:
Newsletters and Correspondence will now
come from the club email address:
lowertrinityvalleybirdclub@gmail.com

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 Program & Speakers

Our speakers for the November meeting will be Paul and Madeline McKneely. Their presentation is titled: "Birding in Bulgaria: Cross-roads between Europe and Asia".

Paul McKneely began birding in 1973 after purchasing his first pair of binoculars as a freshman at Howard Payne University. He received a BS in zoology from Texas A&M and did graduate work in biology at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. He decided on a career change after using computers to gather data on his lizard research subjects. He is now into embedded electronic design and programming, robotic machine control and 3D animation. He began development on his Parallel Programming Language compiler tool chain in 1988 which is based on a text system that incorporates the character sets of the world's written languages (called Unicode).

Paul introduced Madeline to birding in 1989. Madeline is a CPA with no formal education in the sciences, but she took to birding like a fish to water. She always loved to travel, so now they bird the world together. They have traveled to Europe, Asia, and Australia, but most extensively to Latin America and Africa. They also share interests in military (mostly WWII) history (with tours to Guadalcanal and Vietnam) and paleontology. Paul and Madeline have been members of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology since 2006 and have enjoyed attending eight of their annual meetings.



Time to pay those dues again. See back page for instructions.

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



Photo by Gary Holmes

Photo by David Knutson

President's Report

By Gary Holmes

Hello Bird Club:

Hope you are well. Many of our winter birds have returned- I have heard **Snow geese** and **Sandhill cranes** in the last few weeks. The **Wood ducks** on Champion Lake have been very active as they pair-up for mating season. A group of 20 Woods ducks appear each evening as the males try to impress the females- they are in the water and even on the bank.

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 9, 2017, at 6:30 p.m.**, at The FLNB Corner. Our speakers will be Paul and Madeline McKneely, and the presentation is titled: "Birding in Bulgaria: Cross-roads between Europe and Asia." Paul is an excellent photographer and videographer. He and Madeline have a wealth of knowledge about history, geography, and nature. It should be an interesting presentation.

We had a nice turnout for the **Big Sit** and enjoyed time on the refuge, had some great conversations, viewed a flock of 40 Wood Storks in the trees, and saw many other good birds. This month's field trip will be to the **Baytown Nature Center/San Jacinto Battleground**. (See page 3.)

In the future you will be receiving messages from our new club email address lowertrinityvalleybirdclub@gmail.com. Also, be sure to join our Facebook group.

Hope to see you at our meeting and field trip.

Gary

LTVBC November Field Trip

Saturday, Nov 18, 2017

Baytown Nature Center/San Jacinto Battleground

6:30 am - 12:00 pm

Bring: snacks, lunch or eat at Monument Inn, drinks, chairs, and mosquito repellent
Baytown Nature Center gates open 30 minutes before sunrise and close 30 minutes after sunset.

*There is an **entrance fee** of \$4 for adults and students 13 and older. Children 5-12 and Seniors are \$1.*

DIRECTIONS Baytown Nature Center: 6213 Bayway Drive, Baytown.

From the East: Take I-10 West toward Baytown, take exit 789 towards Thompson Rd., make a left on Thompson, head south for 3 miles, Thompson Road becomes Bayway Drive, Baytown Nature Center entrance is on the right.

From the West: Take I-10 East to the Baytown Spur 330 exit (2nd exit after the San Jacinto River Bridge). From Spur 330 take the Bayway Drive exit and turn right at the traffic signal. Proceed south on Bayway for about 2 miles to the Baytown Nature Center entrance on the right (watch for stone entrance sign).



6:30 am-9:30 am at Baytown Nature Center

Baytown Nature Center is a 500-acre peninsula surrounded by Burnet, Crystal and Scott Bays. It consists of hardwood uplands, high quality tidal marsh, and freshwater wetlands. This unique site is listed on the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail, providing habitat for 317 species of resident and neo-tropical migrant birds. The American Bird Conservancy designated BNC as a nationally important bird area. The nature center hosts a monthly Audubon Bird Survey in partnership with Houston Audubon.

But this recreated wetland isn't just for the birds. Numerous other animals also call the nature center home. In addition, it's an important nursery area for a variety of aquatic species, including shrimp, crab and fish.

This former residential subdivision (Brownwood) now features picnic shelters, four fishing piers, two pavilions and two overlooks. There's also the Crystal Bay Butterfly Garden, the Children's Nature Discovery Area, the Myra C. Brown Bird Sanctuary and approximately seven miles of hiking trails.

Baytown Nature Center, operated by the City of Baytown, is open to the public.

10 am-11:30 am at San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site (no entrance fee)

Lunch at the Monument Inn or picnic at the Battleground

Baytown Nature Center: eBird Checklist for November - 166 species

<http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L160443?m=11&yr=all&changeDate=Set>

Trinity River Refuge- Big Sit 2017



Nice day at the Big Sit! We Identified 40 species and had 12 people take part in the event. The best birds were the **Wood Storks** and **Yellow-throated Vireo** (heard).

We occupied our circle from 6:30 am to 5:00 pm. We stopped early due to rain. Participants were: **Gary Holmes, Lisa Holmes, Joe Hall, Barbara Tilton, Stuart Marcus, Shelli Ellerbe, Marvin Masters, Kathleen Ybanez, Ceal Stirling, David Knutson, Carlton Collier, and Frances Oster.**



Photos by Gary Holmes

2017 10 Highest Circle Counts

- [Corpus Christi, Texas \(United States\)](#) — "Swarovski Sitting Hawks" — Libby Even — 102
- [Los Osos, California \(United States\)](#) — "Pishing in the Wind" — Jim Royer — 100
- [Hennepin, Illinois \(United States\)](#) — "Mighty Mighty Jizz Masters" — Greg Neise — 93
- [Pottsboro, Texas \(United States\)](#) — "Hagerman Hawk-Owls" — Greg Cook — 92
- [Cape May Point, New Jersey \(United States\)](#) — "Exit Hero" — Michael O'brien — 86
- [Weslaco, Texas \(United States\)](#) — "Weslaco RedCrowns" — John Yochum — 85
- [Austin, Texas \(United States\)](#) — "Commons Ford" — Shelia Hargis — 76
- [Coatesville, Pennsylvania \(United States\)](#) — "Chambers Lake Early Birders" — Larry Lewis — 73
- [Grayslake, Illinois \(United States\)](#) — "Rollins Raptors" — Beau Schaefer — 73
- [Capitola, California \(United States\)](#) — "Jaegers" — Shantanu Phukan — 73
- [Waxahachie, Texas \(United States\)](#) — "Super-silly-em!" — Ted Drozdowski — 72
- [Virginia Beach, Virginia \(United States\)](#) — "Back Bay Birders" — Andrew Baldelli — 71

Visit <https://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bigsitlive/> for details

Coming Up....

2017-2018 Meeting/Speakers Schedule		
Day/Date	Speakers - Topic	Events
Thursday, November 9, 2017	Paul & Madeline McNeely Birding in Bulgaria	
Thursday, December 14, 2017	LTVBC - McGee Marsh	Christmas Nibbles
Thursday, January 11, 2018	Shelli Ellerbe - ebird	
Thursday, February 8, 2018	David Sarkozi Birding in Main	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
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

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



Tree swallow Ohio
By Shelli Ellerbe

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

LTVBC Maine Birding Adventure

June 2018

Our summer of 2018 birding adventure will be to the beautiful State of Maine. David Sarkozi has agreed to lead the trip in June of 2018. **The trip will be limited to 10 participants- reserve your spot now!**

For birds and birders alike, Maine provides an abundance of excellent habitat. As the largest and most sparsely populated state in New England, Maine represents a significant portion of the breeding range for many eastern woodland bird species.

The state’s abundant precipitation – more than 40 inches a year – and glaciated landscape have created thousands of lakes, ponds, wetlands, and rivers that are ideal habitat for a variety of water birds. And with its deeply indented coastline and uncountable islands, Maine offers attractive habitat for breeding seabirds, migrating shorebirds, and wintering waterfowl.

Maine Birding & Vacation links:

<https://www.maineaudubon.org/birding/>

[Maine Birding Guide](#)

[Field Checklist of Maine Birds](#)

<http://www.mainebirdingtrail.com/>

<https://visitmaine.com/>



Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club



← Click here

There was no November 2017 meeting, and therefore, no October minutes. The following minutes are from the September meeting and were also printed in the October newsletter. They are reprinted here for ease of reference in the November meeting.

-Editor



Minutes of the LTVBC Meeting
September 17, 2017

The Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club met Thursday, September 17, 2017, at the First Liberty National Bank Corner in Liberty, Texas. President Gary Holmes called the meeting to order at 6:30PM. Nineteen members were present at this month's meeting. Joe Hall made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2017, meeting as published in the September 2017 *Wood Duck* # 227. Denise Barkis seconded, all agreed, and the motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Current checking account balance is \$1,914.09. We made a donation to the Houston Audubon for Bird-a-thon in the amount of \$300.00. A donation to the David Dauphin Memorial Fund was made in the amount of \$50.00. There was an expense for web hosting in the amount of \$102.21. We received \$355.00 in revenue from the Birding Class held this past summer. The David Dauphin Memorial Savings Account balance is \$1,019.84. This includes the \$50.00 donation and interest in the amount of \$0.33. Stuart made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Margo Taylor seconded, all agreed, and the motion was accepted.

Old Business:

- The Introduction to Birding Class was a success this year. Half of the participants were Master Naturalists.
- Some of the summer activities the bird club did were: birding at J. J. Mayes, counting the Chimney Swifts at the Dayton Rice Dryer (the last count before Hurricane Harvey was 350), and traveling to see the Martin roost at Willowbrook Mall.

New Business:

- Gary went over the meeting dates, monthly field trips, weekend trip, and out-of-state trip that were listed in the September newsletter. He asked everyone to think about a long weekend trip they would like to take. Please bring ideas and suggestions to the next bird meeting. It was decided that we would travel to Maine next summer for our out-of-state trip.
- Ed Jackson asked that we look into the survival of the Puerto Rican Parrot that is endangered and may have suffered from the hurricanes that hit the island. We may, sometime in the future, donate to their recovery.

Bird Tales: Paul and Colette Micallef traveled to California this summer. Colette added 65 new species to her bird list and Paul added 14 new species to his bird list. Bernice and Ed Jackson went to Panama and saw over 500 birds. They had a great time, but it was hot even in February. Ceal Sterling and Barbara Tilton went to Maine this past June, but there were very few birds.

Speaker Presentation: Lisa Holmes and Shelli Ellerbe gave a wonderful presentation on the King Ranch/Rio Grande Valley Birding trip which we took this past spring. They had great photos of the five different owls we saw.

A door prize was given by Stuart Marcus and won by Margo Taylor.

Since there was no more old or new business to discuss, Paul Micallef made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charles Post seconded, all agreed, and the meeting was adjourned.

Renie O'Connor, Secretary



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 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

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