



# THE WOOD DUCK



Newsletter #202

September 2014

Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club ~ P.O. Box 6051 ~ Liberty, Texas 77575 ~ [www.ltvbc.org](http://www.ltvbc.org)

## September Meeting

The September meeting of the **LOWER TRINITY VALLEY BIRD CLUB** will be held on Saturday, September 13, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at *The FLNB Corner* at 1822 Sam Houston Ave., Liberty, across from First Liberty National Bank. *Directions:* from Hwy. 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. Be sure to come early for our “Birder’s Chat” time at 9:30. Questions should be directed to club President Gary Holmes at 281-576-0574 or by e-mail at [geholmes@verizon.net](mailto:geholmes@verizon.net).

Our speaker for September will be David Sarkozi. His presentation is titled *Birding in Belize*.

David Sarkozi has been birding since high school in the late 1970’s, and became very active birder in the 1990’s. He has served as chairman of the Outdoor Nature Club – Ornithology Group, president of the Friends of Anahuac Refuge, president of the Texas Ornithological Society, and currently serves as the secretary of the society. He is one of the co-authors of a Birder’s Checklist of the Upper Texas Coast. He has been an active field trip leader for 20 years, leading field trips all over Texas and organizing trips to Belize and Costa Rica. He has completed 35 international birding trips to Central America.

David has founded two popular birding games, the Local Patch Challenge and the Texas Century Club. Professionally David has worked for the University of Houston for 33 years and is currently the Manager of Public Safety Systems for the university.

## Meeting Minutes

May 2014



The Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club met Saturday, May 17, 2014, at the home of Denise Barkis. In the absence of President Gary Holmes, Lisa Holmes called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00PM. Fourteen members and four guests were present. There were no minutes to approve for the April Meeting. There was no Treasurer’s Report.

### Old Business:

There was a discussion regarding alternating the meetings and field trips. Joe Hall made a motion to table this item of discussion until the September 13, 2014, meeting. Mary Hannigan seconded, all agreed and the motion was approved.

### New Business:

Election of Officers for 2014-2015: Denise Barkis made a motion to accept the slate of Officers as shown below. Billie Brinkley seconded, all agreed and motion was approved.

President	Gary Holmes
Vice President	David Knutson
Secretary	Renie O’Connor
Treasurer	Joyce Rubash
Newsletter	Shelli Ellerbe
Presentation Coordinators	Stuart Marcus & Lisa Holmes

In planning for the 2014-2015 year, we discussed possible speakers, overnight trips, field trips, recruitment of new members, Beginning Birding Class and the Belize Trip in February 2015.

Since there was no more old or new business to discuss, Celeste Newton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Stuart Marcus seconded, all agreed and the meeting was adjourned.

Renie O’Connor, Secretary

<b>LTVBC Adventure</b>
<b>Belize</b>
<b>Feb. 7-15, 2015</b>
<i>Guide-David Sarkozi</i>
<b>7 days</b>
<i>Min- 6/ Max-11</i>
<i>\$1,800 to \$2,000</i>

**President’s Report**

By Gary Holmes

Hello Bird Club:

I hope you had a good summer. I had a great summer of birding and the LTVBC Oregon Trip was fantastic! We saw all our target woodpeckers (12) and a total of 150 species on the trip. Lisa and I had 28 life birds.

**LTVBC Officers for 2014-2016:** We are ready for another good year. Our officers are in place and we are looking forward to a great year.

- President Gary Holmes
- Vice-President David Knutson
- Treasurer Joyce Rubash
- Secretary Renie O’Connor
- Newsletter Editor Shelli Ellerbe
- Programs Stuart Marcus & Lisa Holmes

**Sept 13 Meeting:** Remember, we will have our traditional kick-off meal after our first meeting on Sept. 13....be sure to bring a friend. David Sarkozi will be our September speaker. David be speaking over Birding in Belize and our Belize trip in February. We will meet at The FLNB Corner.

**May Picnic:** The picnic was held on May 17 at Denise Barkis’s home. As usual, Denise was a gracious hostess.....the food was great. We had several visitors and made plans for this year.

**Field trips:** We have good ideas for our monthly speakers and field trips. We have two field trips planned this month to watch migrants- Sept 14 to Kathie Holders’ hummingbird feeders (she has 40 feeders with 70-100 hummingbirds each evening) and Sept 28 to Smith Point for the Hawk watch (if the weather is right we may see thousands of hawks).

**October Big Day.** At the picnic, we decided to replace the October meeting/field trip with a fall “Big Day” where we visit our local birding hotspots . We will discuss some options at the September meeting. I hope to see everyone at the Sept. 13th meeting. We will have fabulous food, a great presentation, and good friends ... Bring a guest!!

Gary

**Kathie Holder’s Hummingbird Feeders in Huffman**

1114 Commons Waterway, Huffman, 77336

**Sunday, Sept 14, 2014**

**(5:00-6:30pm)**

Kathie has invited us back to see her hummingbirds. She plans of having over 40 feeders which usually attract 50- 100 hummingbirds each evening. It is amazing to see them! Kathie gives these directions:

*From Liberty- 1960E, north on 2100, and at the fourth traffic light (not including light at 1960 and 2100), turn west (left) onto Huffman-Cleveland, drive 2.1 miles and turn west (left) onto our street (Commons Waterway).*

*We are the third house on the left. Our home number is 281-764-5071 if anyone needs to call.*

<b>2014-2015 Field trips</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
Sunday, September 15, 2014	Holder's Hummers
Saturday, September 27, 2014	Hawk Watch
Saturday, October 11, 2014	<b>Fall Big Day-</b> Trinity River Refuge
Saturday, November 15, 2014	Texas City Dike
Saturday, December 20, 2014	Christmas Bird Counts
Saturday, January 17, 2015	Anahuac NWR
Saturday, February 21, 2015	Sheldon Lake SP
Saturday, March 21, 2015	JJ Mayes Wildlife Trace
Saturday, April 11, 2015	<b>Spring Big Day-</b> High Island, Bolivar, Anahuac
Saturday, April 18, 2015	High Island
Saturday, May 16, 2015	Big Thicket- East Texas

<b>LTVBC 2014-2015</b>		
<b>Meetings</b>	<b>Speakers</b>	<b>Events</b>
Saturday, September 13, 2014	David Sarkozi- Belize	Kick-off meal
Saturday, October 11, 2014	None	"Fall Big Day"
Saturday, November 08, 2014	TBD	
Saturday, December 13, 2014	LTVBC Oregon Trip	Christmas Nibbles
Saturday, January 10, 2015	TBD	
Saturday, February 14, 2015	TBD	Great Backyard Bird Count
Saturday, March 14, 2015	TBD	
Saturday, April 11, 2015	none	"Spring Big Day"
Saturday, May 09, 2015	none	Picnic

**Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club**



If you're reading your newsletter on your computer, the **facebook** notice is a link. Click on it to go to the LTVBC Facebook page!

## Woodpecker Wonderland Oregon 2014

We had a great time on the Oregon Trip. LTVBC members participating were Shelli Ellerbe, Margo Taylor, Peggy O'Connor, Renie O'Connor, Mary Hannigan, Lisa Holmes, and Gary Holmes.

Judith Bailey joined us for the trip -Judith is an avid birder, a Liberty native and a dear friend to many in Liberty. Shelli did a great job of organizing the trip and even assisted in driving the vans.



We have hundreds of pictures, great stories, and exciting bird encounters to share – we will have a presentation at our December meeting. We received this communication from our Oregon Guides, Steve Shunk and Christine Elder:

*Fri 7/18/2014*

*Greetings, LTV Birders!*

*I trust most of you are settled back home in sunny Texas. Thank you so much for giving us the chance to show you some great birding in Oregon. I have completed a final bird tally, which I have attached. A total of 150 birds is an excellent list, with several fun additions from our coastal adventure, and of course, all 12 of Oregon's nesting woodpeckers!*

*Special thanks to Shelli for working closely with me to put together such a successful trip. We would LOVE to do another with you in 2015, so get your ideas to Shelli so we can get it on the calendar ASAP.*

*Good birding!*

*Steve & Christine*



## **LTVBC September Field Trip**

*Saturday, September 27, 2014*

### **Hawk Watch-Smith Point, TX**

***Bring: lunch, drinks, chairs, and mosquito repellent***

One of the great spectacles in nature is a sky full of swirling raptors soaring their way to Central and South America for winter. Smith Point, on the eastern shore of Galveston Bay, is a natural concentration point for southwardly moving raptors in fall migration. At the peak of fall migration, it's not unusual to see thousands of Broad-winged Hawks, the most numerous species that migrates through Smith Point, on a single day. To take advantage of this natural bottleneck, the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, in partnership with Hawk Watch International and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, instituted an annual census of the raptors migrating through Smith Point each fall. Originating as a part-time, all-volunteer effort in 1992, the Smith Point Hawk Watch expanded to a full-time, three-month long count in 1997.

### **Directions to the Smith Point Migration Project Site**

From Houston take I-10 East to State Highway 61. Proceed south to the intersection of SH 61, SH 65, and Farm/Ranch Route 562. Continue south on 562 for ~20 miles to the Texas Parks and Wildlife-administered Candy Abshier Wildlife Management Area and follow the signs to the parking area and tower.

### **Meet at the tower at 9:00 am**

***Bird at the tower:*** There are spotters and hawk experts at the towers to educate the public and keep count of the migrants

### **11:30 am Lunch**

**Bring your lunch, drinks, chairs, and mosquito repellent. We will eat at Jim and Joyce Rubash's cabin which is several blocks from the tower. (There are no restaurants in Smith Point.)**

### **12:30 pm -3:00 pm**

**Bird at the tower and other local sites.**





# LOWER TRINITY VALLEY BIRD CLUB

## Membership Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues should be paid by May of each year. Please make checks payable to LTVBC.**

<input type="checkbox"/> Student Membership	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Donation	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership	\$35.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Update my information	

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