

# News from the Island



NEWSLETTER OF THE DAUPHIN ISLAND BIRD SANCTUARIES, INC.

Volume 25 No. 1

Fall 2021

## President's Message Fall-Winter 2021

As day length grows ever shorter, the fall trans-gulf neo-tropical bird migration is in full swing. But quite differently from the spring bird migration which is hurried into just a few frenzied months of blazing colors and the rush to return to the breeding grounds of home, fall migration is a much more protracted event. For a quick fall seasonal recap; early migrants such as Purple Martins had for the most part exited North America by the end of July, with the bulk of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds following close behind in mid-August, and harking the peak of the annual shore bird migration. This fall, by all accounts there were recorded extraordinary numbers of shore birds of various species feeding and resting on the island before continuing to their South American wintering grounds. But of course, October comes, with the dozens of expected species of passerine birds funneling through daily. And quite a good fall migration it had been to this point, and it continues...with unprecedented numbers of Black-throated Blue Warblers recorded in significant numbers as late as November 9th. For our over-wintering avian visitors as well as the island's resident birds and wildlife, the abundance of summer rains has provided ample fresh water, the wild food crop is adequate, and all appears to be good news that there will be sufficient food and water for the upcoming winter season. Finally, I must add that we here on the island are quite thankful that following the catastrophic hurricane season of 2020, we were granted somewhat of a reprieve this year, with only a couple of glancing tropical blows affecting the island.

As you know, the many prime parcels of bird habitat acquired and protected over the many years by Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Inc. (DIBS) provides essential migratory bird stopover habitat, of utmost importance to our spring and fall Neo-tropical migratory birds. I am pleased to report that over the last calendar year DIBS has purchased

two additional lots in the Gorgas Swamp Reserve area; the lots located on General Page Place and Hernando Street, and a maritime forest dune-fronting lot on Itasca Place, adding to our several properties both in in the Tupelo Gum Swamp area and along Dauphin Island's primary dune system. And recently, we have purchased a beautiful and botanically diverse property on Huitres Place, in theTupelo Swamp area. Only due to your continuing support has the protection of these properties has been possible.



In addition, DIBS has been gifted two lots – the first, a beautifully wooded property located on Hitchcock Place, donated to us by our friend Roger Tingley, in memory of his late wife Bonita Bernadette Haider Tingley. The second was donated by Jennie Stowers and is a wonderful addition to our present "Sto's Woods" property located on Cadillac Avenue, just across the street from Shell Mounds Park. The donated property is on Bienville Blvd., adjoining the Cadillac Avenue property, and DIBS is targeting an additional lot in this area. I extend my sincere thanks to Roger and Jennie for these generous gifts of land!

DIBS continues to work with our partner South Alabama Land Trust (SALT) in procuring property through our grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) targeting approximately thirty parcels of prime bird habitat. I expect that the purchasing process for these designated properties will begin very soon. And I am also pleased to relate to you that with the help of the Town of Dauphin Island six parcels in the Steiner Tract, one of the largest mostly undeveloped tracts of land of the island, have been acquired and will be protected in perpetuity. With these lots protected and in addition to the nine properties owned by DIBS, there remain only four unprotected properties and these are on the NFWF priority list for purchase.

(Continued on next page)

## GIVE THE GIFT OF GREEN THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries (DIBS) invites you to join our efforts to conserve Dauphin Island's precious habitat: the swamps, marshes, maritime forests, and undeveloped land that provide shelter and food for scores of migratory birds and an engaging natural wonderland for us. Declines in many of our North American bird populations-more than 3 billion birds lost since 1970- are due in great part to habitat destruction and will irrevocably alter life and nature as we know it.

One way to stem this habitat loss is to "Give Green."

### Your contributions support:

- Critical habitat purchase
- Stewardship of properties
- Educational efforts

### Avenues of gifting:

- Become a DIBS member.
- Consider an increase in your membership donation.
- Gift a membership to a friend or relative.
- Give an honorarium as a holiday gift.
- Send a gift of stock.
- Give a gift of land.

**Let this be the year** that you join DIBS in improving this important migratory habitat, preserving the island, and protecting the natural wonders of our unique barrier island!

### How to give:

Mail your payment to Treasurer/DIBS, P.O. Box 1295, Dauphin Island, AL 36528 or visit [www.dauphinisland-birds.com](http://www.dauphinisland-birds.com)



(President's Message, continued from previous page).

We extend our sincere thanks to the Town of Dauphin Island! The protection of the Steiner Tract has long been one of DIBS' top priorities and we are very optimistic that this will soon come to realization! But development pressures remain high, with up to fifty properties slated for possible residential development, making your continuing support of the DIBS mission so much more important.

We were thrilled to learn that DIBS was awarded one of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Land Trust Grant awardees for 2021. This grant will enable us to improve the invasive species control on our properties, furthering our continuing mission of habitat improvement. DIBS has engaged the Gulf Corp Student Conservation Association (SCA) to help with the implementation of habitat management activities, giving young conservationists hands-on service training and building capacity for their organization.

Finally, on behalf of the DIBS Board, I would like to commend our long-time board member and friend in conservation Walter Ernest and offer our him our congratulations

## Our Thanks to These DIBS Volunteers

**Pat and Bill Edwards** for repairing the bridge that enters Sto's Woods.

**Lola and Chuck Estes and Reese Partridge and Louise Ouellet** for their trail maintenance and invasive plant removal.

**John Hollingsworth** for his cleanup in the Longfellow lots, and **Melinda Hollingsworth** for creating artistic bottles with sales proceeds going to DIBS.

**Sandy Miller and Nancy Zeglan** for assisting at the DIBS tent this fall.

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## The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology Land Trust Bird Conservation Initiative

is thrilled to announce the Cornell Land Trust Grant awardees for 2021. With support from our generous sponsors the program was able to award \$255,000 to 14 land trusts throughout the country to assist awardees with management and restoration of private protected lands, support land acquisition costs and stewardship, integrate bird conservation and tools into prioritization and planning, and develop partnerships within the birding community to amplify conservation efforts.

The *Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries Habitat Management Project* will focus on two habitat types, the Tupelo Gum Swamp and the Back-Barrier Dune and Marsh habitats, identified as most important for conservation and management of resilient landscapes by the Alabama Barrier Island Restoration Assessment released in 2020. DIBS was awarded \$25,000 to implement this project.

Meg Goecker, a DIBS board member wrote, "As a small all-volunteer land trust, the support of the Cornell Land Trust Small Grant is essential in helping us jump start the proper management of our properties to better support habitat for migrating birds and allowing us to demonstrate to surrounding communities how to manage their properties in concert with protected lands."

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for receiving the Marine Conservationist of the Year award from the Dauphin Island Sea Lab Foundation. Walter's over 25 years of tireless work dedicated to land conservation efforts have made coastal Alabama a much better place. Thank you, Walter, and carry on my friend!

In closing I ask that you visit our new website at [dauphinislandbirds.com](http://dauphinislandbirds.com). I wish you our members and friends, and your families a safe and happy holiday season, and please plan to visit your ever-expanding portfolio of essential bird habitat on beautiful Dauphin Island!

Working for conservation,



Ralph Havard, President  
Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Inc.

The Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Inc. would like to thank the following individuals, organizations, and companies for their financial support of our conservation efforts by becoming members, renewing their memberships, or making special gifts, honorariums, and memorial gifts. This list represents contributions received between April 15, 2021 and Nov. 15, 2021. If we have omitted your name from this list, please contact our treasurer, Betsy Eagar, at [dibs1295@gmail.com](mailto:dibs1295@gmail.com).

Extraordinary Gifts:  
Sam Flint (Mary F. Porter's brother)

For:  
Robert G. Tate  
From:  
Sandra Kendall

Mary & Fred Schumacher  
Marilyn & Walter Wallace

Special Gifts:  
Eugenia Carey  
Ann & Jim Hancock  
J. Larry Smith  
Larry Warren

For:  
Edward Zeglen  
From:  
Eugenia Carey  
Betsy Eagar  
Dena & Don McKee

For:  
Donna Madison Maze  
From:  
Denese & Tommy Skelton

Gifts/Donations:  
AOS Members from 2021 Spring and Fall Meetings  
Dority's Bar & Grill  
Laura Blutstein & Charles Duncan  
Doris & Alan Gertler  
Dr. & Mrs. Goodloe  
Pat Rischbieter & Ken Harrelson  
Cathy & Ralph Havard  
Robert Ludlow  
Phyllis Nofzinger  
Elizabeth Green Rencher  
Kathy Rhodes  
George Shola  
Lori Szczukowski

For:  
John & Jackie Porter  
From:  
Gayle & Sandy Barnett

For:  
Edly Maud Johns  
From:  
Lynn & Bill Wildberger  
Linda Reynolds  
Jennie Stowers

For:  
Bill McAllister  
From:  
Linda Reynolds

For:  
Joseph Michael Ruscin  
From:  
Dr. John & Charlene Dindo

For:  
Patricia Mullins  
From:  
Sarah Whitfield

For:  
Jackie, John, & Mary Porter  
From:  
Paul & Dianna Porter

Honorariums:  
For:  
Janice Neitzel, Thank you!  
From:  
Susanne Wadsworth

For:  
Fred Stewart  
From:  
Mary E. Brown  
Jan Booth  
Harriette & Kevin D. McCaul  
Charles Lea  
Susan & Neil Sass  
Donna & Wendel Mongeon  
Cindy & Doug McClure  
Arts of Dauphin Island  
Marna Rushing Byars  
William Pray  
Sue Fairbanks  
Ruth Spinks  
Timothy Howlett  
Angela Thornton-Millard  
Bruce Adkins  
Josie Next Door  
Ralph Havard  
Jason Leavitte  
Lin Pelter  
Dena & Don McKee  
Carol & Russell Campese  
Ann & Walter Lamm

For:  
Arthur Garrett, Happy Father's Day!  
From:  
Katey & Hugh Garrett

Memorials:  
For:  
John Ramsay  
From:  
Dr. John & Charlene Dindo

For:  
David Dalton Dortch  
From:  
Dena & Don McKee

For:  
Peggy Baker  
From:  
Sandra Kendall

When you shop online through Amazon, please consider helping DIBS. If you shop through AMAZON SMILE (<https://smile.amazon.com>) and choose DAUPHIN ISLAND BIRD SANCTUARIES, INC. (Magnolia Springs), Amazon donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases to DIBS. The donation will be made at no extra cost to you. Thank you for your consideration.



Visit our new website to  
EXPLORE ALL THINGS DIBS!  
[dauphinislandbirds.com](http://dauphinislandbirds.com)

~ Membership or Donation ~  
Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Inc.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: DIBS will not share your contact information with anyone.*

Membership Levels:	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member, \$1,000	<b>Please make check payable to: DIBS, Inc.</b> <b>Mail this form and check to:</b> <b>Betsy Eagar, DIBS Treasurer</b> <b>P.O. Box 1295</b> <b>Dauphin Island, AL 36528-1295</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellowhammer, \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Life Member, \$1,250	
<input type="checkbox"/> Magnolia Warbler, \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate, \$1000, \$5000 or \$10,000	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Skimmer, \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Gift: My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Osprey, \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Donate via <a href="http://dauphinislandbirds.com">dauphinislandbirds.com</a>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Painted Bunting, \$500		



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P.O. Box 1295  
Dauphin Island, AL 36528  
251.861.8134/phone  
[dauphinislandbirds.com](http://dauphinislandbirds.com)

### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

A non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation  
of the Dauphin Island Audubon Sanctuary and other  
ecologically valuable habitat on Dauphin Island

### New and Renewed Members through November 15, 2021

#### Yellowhammer

**New**  
Jane & Keith Feldott  
Katey & Hugh Garrett  
Coralie & John Toomey III

**Renewed**  
Virginia & Jimmy Dunn  
Carole & Dick Finch  
Kap Garmon  
Doris & Alan Gertler  
Robert Harlin  
Edith Hunt  
Sandra Kendall  
Lucia Partin  
Carroll & Mark Uithoven

#### Magnolia Warbler

**New**  
Paula & Lucky Dykes  
Randy Fallin  
Susan Drake & Charles Futch

**Renewed**  
Emery Baya  
Camille & Ray Brignac  
Lucy & Temd Deason  
Linda Fagan  
John Fröeschauer  
Charlie Burke & Betsy  
Rogers  
Joan & Tom Siegwald

Rolland & Carolyn Swain  
Jeanne & Russell Voisin  
Sarah Whitfield  
Lynn & Bill Wildberger

#### Black Skimmer

**New**  
Joe Harbison  
Dr. William Kleinschrodt  
Gretchen McCorquodale  
Vince Meleski  
Kathy & Mike Nathan  
Gina & Steven Poole

**Renewed**  
Elsie Croft  
Linda & Bob Fletcher  
Veda Hackell & Tomislave Gracanin  
Fred Hill  
Caroline Lamberth  
Carol Merkel  
D'Juana & Paul Moreno  
Bruce Parsons  
Dianne Patterson  
Anne Petty  
Joan & Michael Russell  
Maryella & Wayne Sirmon  
Denese & Tommy Skelton  
Renee & Bob Taylor

#### Osprey

**New**  
Carolyn Wood

**Renewed**  
Brenda & Uwe Bollow  
Linda Nichols & Robert Burns  
Bobby Doris Cheronos  
Mimi & Bud Urquhart

#### Painted Bunting

**New**  
Andy Hollerman  
Althea Harlin & Peter Ross  
Denise Littleton & Barry  
Thompson

**Renewed**  
Jonnie Sue Lyons

#### New Life Member

Gayle & Sandy Barnett  
Nancy & Arthur Garrett  
Richard Holland  
Mary Anderson Pickard

#### New Family Life Member

Doris & Jimmy Stephenson