

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



(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.

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."

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. 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.

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 Lapp

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

~ 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	Please make check payable to: DIBS, Inc. Mail this form and check to: Betsy Eagar, DIBS Treasurer P.O. Box 1295 Dauphin Island, AL 36528-1295
<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 dauphinislandbirds.com	
<input type="checkbox"/> Painted Bunting, \$500		



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**PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL FOR
YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE**



Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Inc.
P.O. Box 1295
Dauphin Island, AL 36528
251.861.8134/phone
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