

News from the Island



NEWSLETTER OF THE DAUPHIN ISLAND BIRD SANCTUARIES, INC.

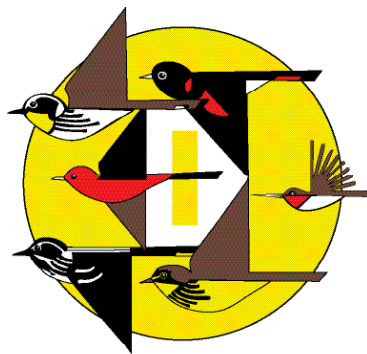
Volume 24 No. 1

Fall 2020

President's Message

Fall/Winter Seasons

Needless to say, 2020 has been a year like no other and I for one will not be heartbroken to see it fade into the rearview mirror. The Covid-19 pandemic is certainly something we will long remember and reflect upon our personal sacrifices, tribulations, and the ways in which we have by necessity altered our lifestyles. Along with everyone else, I am personally quite tired of Zoom meetings, social distancing, hurricanes, masks and hand sanitizers. With potentially groundbreaking new vaccines on the not too distant horizon, we can perhaps during the course of the coming year relegate this global nightmare to the history books. The upside is the advance of scientific knowledge acquired during this pandemic, allowing for the rapid development of apparently revolutionary new vaccines that just may do its job on the coronavirus, and potentially change the way we fight all viral diseases in the future. For this we owe our gratitude to the cutting-edge community of scientific researchers. Let us all hope for a more normal, prosperous and people friendly 2021!



2020 – The Hurricane Year

The 2020 Atlantic hurricane season was unprecedented and one for the record books... and even before it officially began. Meteorologists were predicting an above-average season shortly after the end of the 2019 season. As forecasts continued through the winter and spring 2020, most all arrived at predictions of between 15-20 named storms and 4 major hurricanes. Just two months into the season, National Hurricane Center released an updated 2020 Atlantic hurricane season outlook on August 6th. This updated outlook called for as many as 25 named storms and six major hurricanes, more than double the 1981-2010 historical averages. As of November 10th there have been 30 tropical depressions, of which 29 became tropical storms. Twelve became hurricanes, including five major

hurricanes. Storm numbers in 2020 have now surpassed the 2005 season (Katrina) for the most number of storms in a season. Dauphin Island had serious impacts from four storms; beach erosion from Tropical Storm Cristobal, which made landfall on Grand Isle, LA on July 7th. Major Hurricane Laura passed southwest of the Island on August 27th, on its way to ultimate landfall in Cameron, LA...not that far from the Island as the pelican flies. Next came slow-moving and intense Hurricane Sally roaring into the Alabama Coast and making landfall near Fort Morgan on the night of September 16th. Dauphin Island unfortunately was in the western eye wall of the storm and experienced northeast winds of more 100 MPH for over five hours. Sally was without doubt the most intense and damaging windstorm experienced on Dauphin Island since Hurricane Frederic in September 1979. Catastrophic wind damage occurred, downing an untold number of large trees, and Sally generally wreaked havoc on most everything not tied down. The island's understory vegetation was badly damaged and the wild food crop...the fruits, berries, seeds, acorns and pine nuts upon which many bird and wildlife species depend was severely depleted.

On October 28th Hurricane Zeta complicated an already messy situation, the 8 foot storm surge flooded many homes on the north side of the Island.

Nearly all of our 62 DIBS properties were damaged to some extent, but on a positive note, the Goat Trees, Indian Shell Mounds and Cadillac Square areas have been cleaned of storm debris and are looking almost normal again. Our Gorgas Swamp Reserve looks good. The Audubon Sanctuary was very badly damaged and is still closed to the public but thanks to the hard work of the Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board significant progress is being made. The large numbers of Dauphin Island residents keeping their feeders well stocked and birdbaths filled encourages me, and lacking this needed human assistance the island birds and wildlife would be facing a very scant food supply this winter.

(Continued next page)

I would like to express my thanks to the many donations we have received, earmarked to the task of tree removal, storm debris cleanup and improved access to our properties. I especially wish to thank President Geoff Hill, the membership and board of the Alabama Ornithological Society (AOS) for their targeted fundraising for Dauphin Island hurricane recovery. Your many generous donations have made a huge difference in the pace of our cleanup and recovery! (See additional comments below).

Land Acquisitions

On behalf of our DIBS Board of Directors I would like to thank our good friends Carol and Jim Gross of Sheboygan, Wisconsin for their generous donation to DIBS of two wooded lots on Cadillac Avenue. The lots are located close to our Goat Trees property and these, along with another recent purchase, are a valuable addition to our portfolio of protected properties. Purchasing and protecting additional properties with conservation easements is our mission and thanks to you, our friends, DIBS continues to make a huge difference in the preservation of the unique natural integrity of Dauphin Island, for North American migratory birds, and for our native flora and fauna as well.

If you would like to learn more about how to help save bird habitat by making a personal contribution to Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Inc., please visit our website, coastalbirding.org, and like us on Facebook at Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Inc. DIBS is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) charitable organization, and your contributions are tax deductible. I would finally like to report that in spite of the wind and weather we actually had a quite impressive fall migration, recording very impressive numbers of wood warblers and vireos, buntings and grosbeaks, and dozens of other species of Neo-tropical migratory birds. I hope that you will plan to visit the Island this spring and enjoy your DIBS properties. I would also encourage you, our supporters, to please ask your friends and your families to consider joining us in our ongoing mission of habitat protection on Dauphin Island. You, our supporters, are the backbone of our mission of land preservation and stewardship on still very beautiful Dauphin Island. We at DIBS sincerely appreciate your continued support!

Have a safe and happy holiday season,

Ralph Havard, President
Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Inc.

Special Thanks

The Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries Board of Directors is extremely grateful to the birding community for their financial support for the restoration and clean-up of DIBS properties on Dauphin Island following Hurricanes Sally and Zeta. Through the concerted efforts of AOS and DIBS online appeals to their memberships and "Birding Near Home" project, approximately 55 individuals/families have provided DIBS with over \$6800 dedicated to the cleanup and remediation of devastated bird habitat on Dauphin Island. The monies have been used for extensive tree removal, opening of trails, and debris removal in the Shell Mounds, Goat Tree & Grant Street properties, and Sto's Woods at a cost of \$3000. Future work includes tree removal in the DIBS property at the entrance of the Audubon Sanctuary, repair

to the fencing at the Goat Tree Reserve, further cleanup of DIBS properties, and native plantings projects. AOS has generously pledged an additional \$2500, if needed, for further cleanup and restoration of bird habitat that has been depleted of critical resources. DIBS is in the process of assessing the best methods and costs of replacing and revitalizing habitat that would not recover for many years without our help. DIBS has established a goal of \$5000 to continue this restoration project beyond the current pledges and donations. We thank AOS and DIBS members and friends for supporting the recovery of precious habitat needed to sustain our resident and migratory birds! Please help us spread our message to the birding community.

Community Outreach

🐦 Chuck and Lola Estes from Tennessee, devoted volunteers for DIBS, with the help of DIBS Board member Reese Partridge, undertook the formidable task of cleaning up trails in the Shell Mound and adding another new boardwalk through a muddy area. A great amount of work was required to complete this project in a hot, buggy environment! This same group was responsible for building the boardwalks last fall through the swamp area. Kudos to this special group of people for demonstrating their love of Dauphin Island and its birds.

🐦 We wanted to share some wonderful news!!! Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Inc. was the recipient of this year's "WILDLIFE CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR" awarded by the Alabama Wildlife Federation at the Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards for 2020. Accepting the award were Ralph Havard (President of DIBS) and Walter Ernest (Executive Board Member). We wish to thank all those who contributed to DIBS' mission and for all the hard work from the board and members.

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 March 1 and November 15. If we have omitted your name from this list, please contact our treasurer, Betsy Eagar, at dibs1295@gmail.com.

Special Gifts:

Cathy and Ralph Havard
Eugenia Carey
Jean Golden

Julia S. Maitre
Rosemary Mobley
Nussbaum Education
Network, LLC
Thomas O'Flarity
Camie Orth
Lyl Parker
Louise Ouellet & Reese
Partridge
Hans Paul
Stephanie Pluscht
Julia Pryor
Vivian Raney
Pat & Bob Reed
Leslie Roberts
Joan & Tom Siegwald
Maryella & Wayne Sirmon
Robert Smith
Elaine Stonecypher
Renee & Bob Taylor
Patti Tichenor
Sandra Turner
Joyce Vallance
Daniel Vickers
Mariann Wilson

From:
Augusta Robinson

For:
Dick Reynolds
From:
Kap Garmon
Elberta Reid
Mary Frances Stayton
Bianca "BJ" Allen
Charlotte Fanz
Joan & Tom Siegwald
Melissa & Tom Oliver
Joan & Michael Russell
Larry Overman
Jessica Germany
Vicki & Ken Marion
Betsy Eagar
Dana & Stan Hamilton
Sue Moske
Eugenia Carey
Shirley Farrell
Kenneth Ward
Jennie Stowers
Sandra Kendall
Lisa Bailey & Pelham Rowan

For:
Joseph "Leon" Schultz
From:
John & Charlene Dindo

For:
James Fell & Betty Mae Fell
From:
John & Charlene Dindo

For:
Charles Michael Cook
From:
James & Joy Cook

For:
Marc Miller
From:
Sally Carrington

For:
Judy Pratt
From:
Jennie Stowers

For:
Dr. Ralph Neal
From:
Catherine Neal

For:
Odie K. Tucker
From:
Mariann Wilson

For:
Florence Bowdoin
From:
Barbara Rancour

For:
Marti Carey, beloved companion
From:
Jennie Stowers

Gifts/Donations:

Brenda & Uwe Bollow
Lois Chaplin
Linda & Bob Fletcher
John Froeschauer
Hugh Garrett
Jane George
Alan & Doris Gertler
Carole Gobert
Stella Grenier
Carol Gross
Terry Hartley
Kathryn Keaton
Jennifer McClanahan
Linda McIntyre
Anne & George Petty
Beach Planet
Crystal Smith
Allen & Marilyn Sullivan

Hurricane Sally Clean-Up

Donations:

Betty Anderson
Robert Baker
Kimberly Barnes
Susan Barrow
Richard Beil
Cynthia Brasher
Camille & Ray Brignac
Ellen Broach
Vickie Brown
Eugenia Carey
Bobby Doris Cheronas
Jonah Cohen
Julia Conrad
Susan Dees
Joan W-S Dixon
Betsy Eagar
Barbara Edwards
Jean Folsom
Joe Fowler
Murphy Garmon
Kathryn Guida
Linda Gunnells
Julie & Kenneth Hare
Linda Henckell
Pamela Hodges
Greg & Debra Jackson
Martha Jenks
Carol Kautzman
Paul Kittle
L. Stanley Lee
Terry & Herb Lewis
Doreen Libby
Jonnie Sue Lyons
Jean Madden

Honorariums:

For:
Nancy Garrett,
Happy Mother's Day!
From:
Hugh Garrett
For:
Cy Clemo, DISL
From:
Katherine & George Clemo

Memorials:

For:
Ron Musgrove,
former DIBS Board Member
From:
Penny Musgrove

For:
Olivia Thornton Clark
From:
John & Charlene Dindo

For:
Betty Lou DeRouen
From:
Charlene & John Dindo

For:
Aislinn Sumlin
From:
John & Charlene Dindo

For:
Elaine McDonald

For:
Mary Porter
From:
Elberta Reid
Carroll & Mark Uithoven
Alice Christenson

For:
Boaty Campbell
From:
Charlene & John Dindo


For:
Beverly Watson
From:
Dee Patterson

For:
Joseph Cofer
From:
Tommie Rogers

For:
Mary & John Porter
From:
Lynn & Tom Howes
Penny Musgrove

For:
Gloria Louise Kinna
From:
John & Charlene Dindo

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.



~ 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:

- Yellowhammer, \$35
- Magnolia Warbler, \$50
- Black Skimmer, \$100
- Osprey, \$250

- Painted Bunting, \$500
- Life Member, \$1,000
- Family Life Member, \$1,250
- Gift: My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

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



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PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL FOR
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Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Inc.
P.O. Box 1295
Dauphin Island, AL 36528
251.861.8134/phone
coastalbirding.org

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, 2020

Yellowhammer

New

Lucia Partin

Renewed

Katherine & George Clemo
John Cole
James & Joy Cook
John & Teddy Dismukes
Carole Finch
Kap Garmon
Robert Harlin
Lynn & Tom Howes
Mary Beth & Jay Isacks
Sandra Kendall
Peggy King
Lynne Lovoy
Annabel Markle
Anne G. Miller
Ann L. Miller
Dee Patterson
Robert Stewart
Coralie & John Toomey
Carroll & Mark Uithoven
R. Voisin
Jill Wicknick

Magnolia Warbler

New

Jean Kerr
Blair Morrison

Renewed

Linda Adrion
Emery Baya
Peggy Bowen
Camille & Ray Brignac
Betsy Rogers & Charlie Burke
Ann & Paul Burkholder
Linda Fagan
Charlotte Fanz
Jean Folsom
Nancy & Jim Gaines

Dana & Stan Hamilton
Ken Hare
Tuck & Livia Hayward
Patricia Kerr
Powers McLeod
Laura Meeds
Charlie & Carolyn Newcomer
David Newton
Dianne Patterson
Kay & Rick Pinegar
Roy & Barbara Price
SE Avian Research c/o Cindi
Routledge
Elizabeth Ryan
Maryella Sirmon
Rolland Swain
Judy Welford
Lynn & Bill Wildberger

Black Skimmer

Renewed

Carol & Randy Alford
Gretchen Boyd
Sally Carrington
Bobby Doris Cheronos
Alice Christenson
Kenley Clark
Sharon & Gary Cobb
Jeff Collier
Judy Crittenden
Elsie Croft
Lacy & Michael Curtis
Beverly Ellzey
Linda & Bob Fletcher
Alan & Doris Gertler
Rusty Gregory
Fred Hill
Bernice Hotman
Karin & Michael Krumpelt
Caroline Lamberth
Joanne & Joel Lunsford

Carol Merkel
D'Juana & Paul Moreno
Thomas O'Flarity
Barbara Rancour
Henry Reed
John & Connie Roan
Joan & Michael Russell
Floyd Sherrod
Joan & Tom Siegwald
Denese & Tommy Skelton
Karen & Mike Wilson

Osprey

New

Meg Goecker

Renewed

Linda Nichols & Robert
Burns
Lucy & Temd Deason
Sylvia & Jud Johnston
Pam & Steve Lasley
Rusty Sanders
Doris & Jimmy Stephenson
Mimi & Bud Urquhart

Painted Bunting

New

Penny McPherson

Renewed

Art & Nancy Garrett

New Life Member

Molly Hitchcock
Kathryn Palmore
Judge Larry F. Warren

New Family Life Member

Sharon & Franklin Chalk
Beth & James Lyons
Cynthia & Tim Freeman

Annual Membership Meeting Announcement

Tuesday, December 29
5:30 p.m.
via Zoom link

One of the responsibilities
of the DIBS membership is
to elect the new members
to the board of directors at
the annual meeting, which
this year will be held via
Zoom due to the ongoing
pandemic. If you would like
to participate, please send
an email to [dibs1295@
gmail.com](mailto:dibs1295@gmail.com) and the meeting
registration information will
be sent to you. Check the
website after December 15
for further details:
coastalbirding.org