

News from the Island



NEWSLETTER OF THE DAUPHIN ISLAND BIRD SANCTUARIES, INC.

Volume 21 No. 2

Spring 2018

President's Message

Life would certainly be bleak without the miracle of spring... this wondrous season of rebirth. Try to picture a world without wildflowers, trees or shrubs, or the miracle of a butterfly? A spring morning would certainly be incomplete if there were no budding trees, flowers, singing birds or the buzzing of bees. What could possibly be a substitute for water, either for its essential necessity or its scenic beauty? Who would want to venture through our countryside without the natural beauty of our seashores, or mountains, or valleys, or rolling plains? These are the simple pleasures of nature - pleasures that we accept so casually, yet they are the things that afford us health, well-being and the pleasures of life. A healthy environment is indeed, the very basis of our lives. And since that is true, as we enjoy and partake of these natural wonders we realize that the more effort we spend to preserve these essential gifts of nature the more fruitful our lives become! Therefore the responsibility each of us shares is to make these creations of nature more readily available, not only for ourselves, but also for the generations who follow after us.

The phenomenon of bird migration is essentially an act of survival. Many species living in northern areas cannot find sufficient food during the cold winter months and would perish if they did not migrate. This is especially true of those that subsist chiefly on insects; consequently, they move to a warmer climate where insects do not become dormant in the winter, and how these feathered creatures know when and where to go is a fascinating study.

Bird migration certainly involves an extensive knowledge of navigation, since birds customarily follow the same routes each year. The research conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over the course of many decades and assisted by private individuals licensed to trap and band migratory birds, has provided a wealth of information on the seasonal migration patterns of North American neo-tropical migratory birds. Birds banded in spring along the central gulf coast, are often re-trapped the following spring at the exact same spot. In fall, these neo-tropical species migrate far to the south into Central and South America. While many of these species go by way of Eastern Flyway down through Florida to the Bahamas, the Caribbean islands and

beyond, or the Central Flyway through Texas to Mexico and Central America, enormous numbers prefer the more direct route of the Mississippi Flyway, leading across the Gulf of Mexico and using the Dauphin Island area as one of their most preferred arrival and departure points.

For this reason, Dauphin Island has become a mecca for birders from throughout the U. S. during the spring and fall migration periods, where nearly every species ranging in the eastern half of the North American continent has been recorded.

As you know, the primary mission of Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Inc. (DIBS) is acquisition and protection of essential and irreplaceable migratory bird habitat on the Island. We continue to add to our many prime parcels of land on Dauphin Island, the habitat that provides essential bird stop-over and re-fueling areas so vital for our spring and fall neotropical avian visitors, as well insuring a safe and healthy environment for our resident birds. The biggest problems may still be the destruction of these birds' wintering habitat in the American tropics, or the degradation of nesting habitat on our own continent – not to mention that many of them have very specialized diets and other exacting needs, whether it be in their winter or summer residences.

These facts reinforce and underline our mission at DIBS – the protection in perpetuity of the most important of habitats – these safe, first-stopover points that are so essential to the survival of all trans-gulf passerine migratory birds. Development pressures in the last year on Dauphin Island are high, and your continued support is vital. Dauphin Island is such a unique and wonderful location to share with bird lovers from all across our country and I encourage you bring a friend and take the time this spring to enjoy your beautiful DIBS properties. In the past year we have added many fine parcels of land to your portfolio and thanks to your support DIBS can continue its mission of protecting and enhancing this amazing little slice of avian paradise!

Thank you,
Ralph Havard, President
Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Inc.

Property Maintenance Update

At the Winter Meeting of the Board of Directors in Greenville, Lynne Fitzgerald submitted proposals regarding the management of cogon grass on the Porter and Ani lots on Grant Street owned by DIBS. The proposals approved \$400 for the purchase of supplies used by Michael Jordan and the hiring of a lawn service to mow the grass following treatment. The spraying was done in January and the mowing was done on March 7. Michael will spray again when the grass reaches 6 inches in height and this will be followed by another mowing prior to AOS.



Eva Barnette, Don and Dena McKee, Ann McLaurin, and Jennie Stowers for their help on this project. We owe a special thanks to Betsy Eagar and Sarah Whitfield who two years ago began this project with weed eaters, spray, and many hours of labor in the initial steps of cogon grass eradication. They were also responsible for using the funds from a defunct birding group to place the bench on the Porter Lot. Jimmy Stevenson was kind enough to provide and plant several bottle brush plants on the ditch side of the Porter Lot.

We are hoping to be able to plant additional bottle brush, mulberry, milkweed and other bird/butterfly friendly plants for this habitat. An informal voluntary

workday is planned for the day before AOS so if you happen to be on the island Thursday morning, April 19th, bring your clippers, bug spray and shovel to Grant Street.



Respectfully submitted,
R. Lynne Fitzgerald

The second proposal was to contact a land management biologist to provide a plan for long term maintenance of our properties. This was tabled as we are awaiting information that might render this proposal unnecessary. A final proposal was approved to make the funds available to provide maps of the DIBS properties and brochures for the AOS meeting as was done last year.

Many thanks to Eric's Lawn Service, Michael Jordon,

Recent Habitat Protection Efforts

The Tupelo Gum Swamp south of Cadillac Square Park continues to be the focus of DIBS's habitat protection efforts. Using funds provided by the Estate of Harriett H. Wright, DIBS recently purchased the lot at the intersection of Houston Place and Hernando Street - which means that three of the four lots on the south side of Houston Place have now been permanently protected. This is crucial to protecting stopover habitat for neotropical migrants at this time of unprecedented development on the island.

Additionally, DIBS is pursuing habitat protection efforts on the eastern edge of the Tupelo Gum Swamp, which runs north-south between Hernando and General Gorgas Streets. If we are successful in our negotiations with the property's owner, the lot that is southeast of the intersection of General Gorgas Street and General Wilkinson Place will join several DIBS properties that are located on the west side of General Gorgas. These lots are immediately north of the primary dune line, which means that incoming migrants will quickly find food & rest upon reaching the island.



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 September 1, 2017 and March 1, 2018. If we have omitted your name from this list, please contact our treasurer, Betsy Eagar, at (251) 455-0362 or aeeagar@att.net.

Special Gifts:

Eugenia Carey
 Greg & Debra Jackson
 Larry & Linda Smith
 Estate of Harriett H. Wright

Gifts:

Laura Blutstein & Charles Duncan
 Walter Ernest
 Dr. Robert Harlin
 Lynne Lovoy
 Dorothy Miller
 Fred & Brandee Moore
 Lori Oswald & Hans Paul
 George Shola

Birding Equipment and Training to 4th Grade Students at Dauphin Island Elementary School

Eugenia Carey
 Ralph Havard
 Dena & Don McKee

Honorariums:

For:
 Joan & John Dixon
From:
 Lucy & Bob Duncan

For:
 Jenny Stowers
From:
 Edith Hunt

For:
 Betsy Eagar
From:
 Lee Newman & Lori Szczukowski

For:
 Mary Porter
From:
 Gayle & Sandy Barnett

For:
 Greg Harber
From:
 Betsy Eagar

Memorials:

For:
 Odie K. Tucker
From:
 Amelia Tucker & Family

For:
 Marsyl Dees
From:
 Ann Bedsole
 Dr. & Mrs. J.R. Goodloe, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. John T. Lyons
 Dr. & Mrs. B.H. Eichold, II

For:
 Ed Jones
From:
 Mary Dunbar

For:
 John Porter
From:
 Gayle & Sandy Barnett
 Greg & Patty Waldrip

For:
 Jackie Porter
From:
 Gayle & Sandy Barnett

For:
 Ralph & Mary John Tiller
From:
 Karl Ulicny & Tracy Tiller

For:
 John Stowers
From:
 Karl Ulicny & Tracy Tiller

For:
 Sherri Trzcinski
From:
 Charlene & John Dindo

AOS Meeting Contributors:
(Fall 2017)

Susan Barrow
 Mr. & Mrs. Warren Boutris
 Sharon Cobb
 John Cole
 Linda Fagan
 Barry Fleming
 Jean Golden
 Ken Hare
 Anne Miller
 Thomas O'Flarity
 Cindy Palmer
 Kathryn Palmore
 Elberta Reid
 Rick Remy
 Michelle Reynolds
 Joan Siegwald
 Caroline Wellesley

AOS Meeting Contributors:
(Winter 2018)

Anonymous
 Susan Barrow
 Bobby Doris Cheronos
 Joan & John Dixon
 Bob & Lucy Duncan
 Lin Fagan
 Jean Folsom
 Larry Goodman
 Sandra Kendall
 Bill McAllister
 Anne Miller
 Fred Peterson
 Elberta Reid
 Joan & Tom Siegwald
 Sean & Caroline Wellesley

~ Membership or Renewal Application ~
 Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Inc.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: (____) _____
 E-mail: _____

Membership Levels:

- Northern Cardinal, \$25
- Indigo Bunting \$50
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak, \$100
- Snowy Egret, \$250

- Great Egret, \$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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YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE**



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 March 1, 2018

**Northern Cardinal
Renewed**

- Elise Croft
- John & Teddy Dismukes
- Jimmy & Virginia Dunn
- David George
- Livia & Tuck Hayward
- Peggy King
- Catherine Neal
- Susanne Wadsworth

**Indigo Bunting
New**

- Cynthia Palmer
- Renewed**
- Carey & Lynne Cooper
 - Mary Dunbar
 - John Tullo & Lucy Harber
 - Michael & Linda Henderson
 - Jay & Mary Beth Isacks
 - Michael & Karin Krumpelt
 - David Newton
 - Cathy O'Sheal
 - Philip & Carolyn Sankey
 - Bill & Lynn Wildberger

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Renewed**

- Ernest & Stephanie Brody
- James & Patsy Causey
- Lamont & Susan Dees
- Stella Grenier
- Robert & Pat Meaher
- Leslee Reed
- A. John Stringer
- George Thurlow
- Mimi & Bud Urquhart
- Frank Wilson

**Great Egret
Renewed**

- Eva & Dennis Strickland

Life Member

- Dorothy Miller
- Shirley Wayland

Family Life Member

- Dr. John Larry Smith

