

News from the Island



NEWSLETTER OF THE DAUPHIN ISLAND BIRD SANCTUARIES, INC.

Volume 22 No. 2

Spring 2019

President's Message

The Spring Season - Helping Migratory Birds

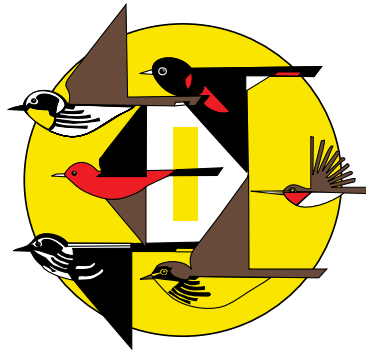
Birds may fly hundreds, or even thousands of miles during migration, covering large distances without food, water or rest. Exhaustion can make birds less wary of potential threats, and tired and hungry birds are more apt to collide with obstacles or falter in flight. This is especially true if their migratory pathways are affected by unfavorable wind and weather conditions.

Collisions - Globally, untold thousands of migrating birds collide with obstacles in mid-flight during their semiannual migrations, and the majority of these collisions cause fatal injuries. The most common and dangerous obstacles for our trans-gulf migrants are the offshore oil and gas platforms, and upon arrival to land, cell phone towers, electrical wires, poles, tall glass buildings and similar structures. Countless North American migratory birds die every year from collisions with cell phone towers. Most of these deaths are easily preventable. The vast majority of the problem occurs at cell towers that have steady burning lights, which attract birds. The quite simple remedy is for the tower operators to use flashing lights as they pose little danger to birds. Tower operators need to hear from concerned citizens. Changing over to flashing lights is cheap and even money saving for the operator and in many cases, citizen input has prompted the companies to make the switch. If you know of a cell tower in your neck of the woods that uses steady lights, there's now an app for that! Go to songbirdsafety.org and use the desktop version or download their mobile app. The app identifies tower owners and addresses and even offers an appropriately addressed letter to the operator.

Nocturnal Circulation - Scientists believe that the mere presence of over 4,000 lighted oil and gas platforms take a huge toll on migratory birds population every year. Researchers have documented upwards of 100,000 birds flying around a single platform. Birds migrating across the

Gulf at night will circle for hours at a time, until they become exhausted, fall into the sea and die. Dutch researchers working on platforms in the North Sea have found that simply and economically switching to a new kind of light bulb could reduce nocturnal circulation mortality by 90 percent.

Scant food supplies can lead to undernourishment and even starvation among migrating birds every year. This may be caused by habitat destruction that effectively strands migrating birds without food along their route, or it can be due to greater feeding competition among large flocks of migratory birds. Trans-gulf migrant species continue to be on the decline on a hemispheric level. Is the problem the destruction of these birds' winter habitats in the American tropics, or the degradation of nesting habitat on our own continent? The short answer is both. These facts reinforce and underline our mission at Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Inc. (DIBS)— the protection in perpetuity of the most important of habitats – safe, first-stop-over points – the recharging stations that are essential to the survival of all trans-gulf passerine migratory birds.



So many of us enjoy running hummingbird feeders during spring migration — and now is the time — the hummers are arriving en masse. Tell folks not to buy the red stuff sold at the big box stores. The colorful feeders by themselves are plenty attractive to hummers.

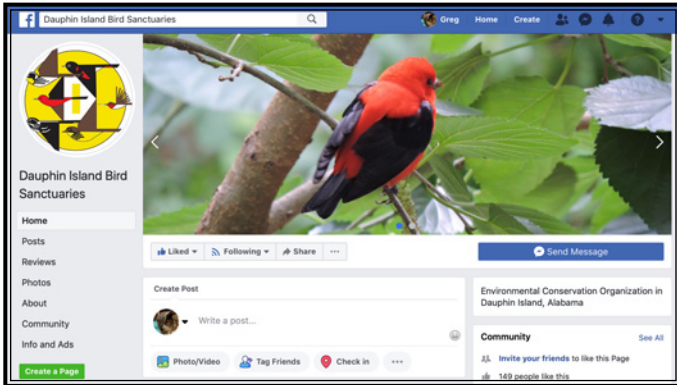
Many of these red dyes contain petroleum by-products and have been banned for human consumption so they certainly couldn't be good for a hummingbird that weighs just one-tenth of an ounce! It's easy to prepare your own hummer nectar. Just use a mixture of four parts water to one part sugar, boil and allow the mixture to cool before filling your feeders. Never use honey or artificial sweeteners and don't forget to change the mixture at least weekly. In warm weather hummingbird nectar can spoil very quickly so be sure it's fresh and safe for these turbo-charged flying gemstones.

(Continued next page)

Community Outreach

Don McKee, DIBS board member and island resident, addressed an audience of more than 90 people on January 16, 2019 at the Little Red Schoolhouse Museum. Don presented "Birds of Dauphin Island." Many thanks to Jim Hall, Museum Director, and Councilwoman Shirley Robinson for all their work in making it happen. To see some of the birds profiled in Don's program visit the DIBS Facebook page (see below).

(Photo courtesy of Andrew Haffenden)



Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries invites you to visit their Facebook page for the latest news and updates during this spring migration season. (<https://www.facebook.com/Dauphin-Island-Bird-Sanctuaries-435206367216558/>). Note that you do not have to have a Facebook account in order to view

Project "ALL ABOUT THE BIRDS" is a project between the Town of Dauphin Island and the Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries that protects plots of wildflowers, which serve as a food source for migrating birds, that are growing in the right-of-way. Mowing will resume in early May. Many thanks to Mayor Jeff Collier and the town of Dauphin Island for their support.



Birding is considered to be the fastest growing sport in the United States so we should all make an effort to share the wonders of birds with our friends and family members. Introducing others to this rewarding avocation helps raise awareness of birds in every season and encourages more people to enjoy migration and support the protection migratory birds. So, pass the word and in April and May, be sure to keep an eyes and an ears open for our special spring-time gems of the avian world!

Over the past twelve months DIBS has acquired several prime properties in both our Gorgas Swamp Reserve and the Tupelo Gum swamp area. You now own forty-five properties on the Dauphin Island but with development pressure at an all-time high, we still have much work to do. With fingers crossed, we hope to soon be the recipient of a grant in aid derived from fines levied on the responsible parties of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster. The grant would be from monies obtained under the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Act (NRDA), the legal process used to evaluate and mitigate the impacts of oil spills, hazardous waste sites, and ship grounding impacts on wildlife and natural resources along our nation's coast. The grant will be ad-

ministered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and will allow DIBS to acquire and protect additional important habitat on the island.

Come to the island and visit your DIBS properties and please consider joining us on Friday, April 19th through Sunday, April 21st for the Alabama Ornithological Society (AOS) spring meeting. Registration begins at 5:00 p.m. on Friday at Shelby Hall, located on the Dauphin Island Sea Lab campus. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind all of our supporters to please check the renewal dates of your DIBS memberships and to ask your friends and family to consider joining our mission of habitat protection on Dauphin Island. We appreciate you all, our supporters, who are the backbone of our mission of habitat preservation and land stewardship on beautiful Dauphin Island!

Working for Conservation,

Ralph Havard, President
DIBS

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, 2018 and March 1, 2019. If we have omitted your name from this list, please contact our treasurer, Betsy Eagar, at (251) 455-0362 or aeeagar@att.net.

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Greg & Debra Jackson
Harriett Wright Estate

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Tennessee Orthitological Society,
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Vernon & Sallie Hunter
Merita Roberts, Marilyn Roberts &
Charlotte Johnson

For:

Thomas W. Miller
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Dr. John & Charlene Dindo

For:

John Porter
From:
Greg, Patti, Beth & Anna Waldrip

Honorariums:

For:
Jennie Stowers
From:
Isabel Barnes

For:

John Stowers
From:
Karl Ulicny & Tracy Tiller

For:

Greg Harber, a Great Guide

From:

Bimingham OLLI

For:

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

Memorials:

For:
Bianca Allen's Aunt Ada &
Uncle Wilfred
From:
Charlotte Fanz

For:

Sheri Trzcinski
From:
Dr. John & Charlene Dindo

For:

Laura Bounds

From:

Betsy Eagar

AOS Meeting Contributors:

(Fall 2018)
Anonymous
Susan Barrow
Sally & Dick Bruer
George & Katherine Clemo
John Cole
Joan & John Dixon

**AOS Meeting Contributors:
(Winter 2019)**

Anonymous
Susan Barrow
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Bala Chennupati
Bobby Doris Cherones
Alice Christenson
Bob & Lucy Duncan
Laura Flowers
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Walter Hough
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Pam & Steve Lasley
Bill McAllister
Elberta Reid
Michael Russell
Bob & Renee Taylor
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Jared Wolfe

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

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

Membership Levels:

- Yellowhammer, \$25
- Indigo Bunting \$50
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak, \$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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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, 2019

Yellowhammer

New

Stella Anderson
Jonathan & Karen Edelson
Dr Robert Harlin
James Jeffery
Susanne Wadsworth

Renewed

Lucy & Bob Duncan
Kap Garmon
Annabel Markle
Roy & Barbara Price, Jr
Harriette Slayden Lang
Larry & Linda Smith, Sr.
Joan Smith
Robert Stewart

Indigo Bunting

New

Isabel Barnes
Rusty Gregory
Stan & Dana Hamilton
Neil & Susan Sass
Sylvia Tousley

Renewed

Charlotte Fanz
David George

John Tullo & Lucy Harber
Caroline Madsen
Steve & Cathy O'Sheal
Phil & Carolyn Sankey
Mary Frances Stayton
Dennis & Eva Strickland
Mark & Carroll Uithoven
Bill & Lynn Wildberger

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

New

Kathleen Dancy
Cheryl & William Jones
Tom O'Flarity
Paul & Dianna Porter

Renewed

Carol & Randy Alford
Linda Nichols & Robert Burns
Lester & Dorothy Burroughs
Patsy & James Causey
Betsy Eagar
Ben Garmon
Mike & Linda Henderson
Robert & Pat Meaher
Carol Merkel
Larry Warren

Osprey

Renewed

Lynne Fitzgerald
Lori Oswald & Hans Paul
Jane & Donald Smith, Jr.
Mimi & Bud Urquhart, Jr.

Life Member

Shelia Shaw

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Louise Ouellet & Reese Partridge

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