

NEWS FROM THE ISLAND



Newsletter of the Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Inc.

Volume No. 13 No. 3

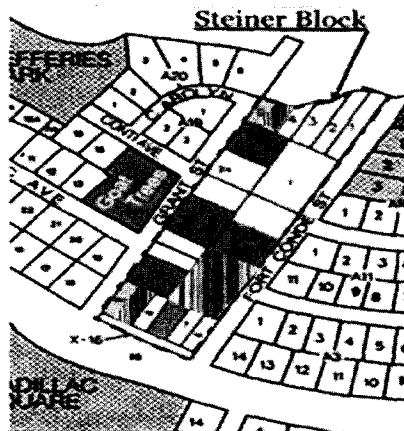
Winter 2007





Report from the Executive Director

Acquisitions Update



Steiner Block Proposal to Gulf Coast Bird Observatory



-  Current Holdings
-  Purchased-TNC/NMBCA
-  Pending-TNC/NMBCA
-  Proposed-GCBO/NMBCA

Our efforts in acquiring new habitat continue to be focused on the Steiner Block. In 2004 the Nature Conservancy and the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program established a joint venture, Coastal Habitats Coordinating Team, to examine critical issues along the Alabama Gulf Coast. Their resulting report: *Preserving Alabama's Coastal Habitats: Acquisition and Restoration Priorities of Mobile and Baldwin Counties*, March 2006, identifies the Steiner properties as high priority habitat for acquisition.

Our partnership with the Alabama Nature Conservancy, Coastal Programs Office has born fruition with a grant from Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act funds administered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Under this grant, we recently acquired one of the targeted lots in the Steiner Block, 610 Bienville Blvd. and have an offer pending on two additional lots in the block.

Continuing this approach, DIBS recently entered into a second partnership with the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory with a follow-up grant

application for Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act funds for additional Steiner Block property acquisition. The properties involved are shown in the side map, which also shows property we have previously acquired. Characteristic of NMBCA grants, the sponsored activities are in the US and in Mexico. The GCBO grant application proposes to expand the work of their Avian International Migration Monitoring Network in Mexico and Honduras completing the study of the Central American fly-way for Cerulean Warbler and acquire habitat in Louisiana and Alabama. The Louisiana project involves acquisition of additional remnant oak forest on the barrier island of Grand Isle, Louisiana while the Alabama project includes the above identified Steiner block acquisition on Dauphin Island. Partners in the Louisiana project are The Nature Conservancy of Louisiana and Orleans Audubon Society with DIBS as the Alabama partner.

An Island yard... good for birds...

There are several simple things you can do to make your yard more attractive to our visiting neotropical migrants. Such efforts will not only give you hours of pleasure but also provide them with the critical food and rest they need to continue their long journey. Essentials the birds need are: protective cover, a source of food and a source of water for bathing and drinking.

The ideal cover is provided by bushes, shrubs and deciduous trees. While the myriad of ancient live oaks on the Island are the main attraction for migrants, there are other, faster growing species you can use to attract birds to your yard. Yaupon holly, wax myrtle and salt bush are relatively fast growing natives that provide good cover as well as food.

Red mulberry, though not a native, is an excellent "exotic" well adapted to the Island. Presumably introduced by the French, they provide excellent food and cover for spring migrants. Many of the Island's mulberries suffered severe damage from Ivan and Katrina and need to be replaced. Lantana, a low, flowering invasive plant, is found all over the Island and provides good cover as well as nectar for hummers and butterflies. Lantana can easily be rooted from cuttings taken from the profusion of plants growing along many of our drainage ditches. Bottle Brush, available from local nurseries as either an upright bush (tree) or as a weeping subspecies, is excellent for hummers, butterflies and an occasional oriole. Hibiscus is also a good source of nectar for hummers, growing to heights of 8-10 feet, and is hardy for

most winters on the Island, and will usually recover following a hard freeze. Beauty Berry is a hardy plant for fructivores that grows well on the Island. There is a host of flowering species on the island that are easy to establish. A must is Mexican petunia; self propagating by seed and rhizome, it is a prolific daily blooming plant. Wide varieties of salvia are native to the island and are good for hummers and butterflies as is Little Cigar. Turk's Cap is an aggressive spreading bushy plant that has an abundance of bright red blooms attracting a host of nectar seekers.

Be sure to keep up at least one hummingbird feeder over the winter for the chance of a stray western

hummer. Black-chinned and Rufus hummers are known to visit the Island in winter and provide an exciting break in what can be a dull birding winter. If you get a visitor be sure to contact Fred Bassett, FHound@aol.com and arrange for banding your bird. You may be surprised to learn that Fred or another bander from the Hummer/Bird Study Group has banded the bird in earlier years!

Another must for the winter is a suet feeder, particularly attractive to woodpeckers. Check your local birding dealer for supplies or go to our on line store for some possibilities. If you like to make your own here is a recipe from the Hummer/Bird Study Group that is a proven winner:

Martha's Super Suet An original recipe from Martha Sargent

1 Cup of Crunchy Peanut Butter
2 Cups of Quick Cook Oats
2 Cups of Cornmeal

1 Cup of Lard (not shortening)
1 Cup of regular White Flour
1/3 Cup Sugar

Melt lard and peanut butter in the microwave or over low heat. Stir in remaining ingredients and pour (or spoon) into square freezer containers about 1/2" thick to fit into your suet basket. Store in freezer or refrigerator until ready to use. This make 6-8 cakes.

And be sure to keep a source of open clean water in a bird bath or other location for you winter birds. Water can be more important than food! Lots of folks put up a water feature with flowing, re-circulated water.

Check your local home improvement center for some exciting possibilities.

For further details in creating a backyard wildlife habitat go to <http://www.nwf.org/backyard/>

A new gifting opportunity...

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 provides a new incentive for charitable contributions to non-profit organizations such as the Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries. The following is extracted from the IRS page, <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=164997,00.html>

Recent Tax Law Changes May Affect People Giving to Charity: IRS Offers Tips for Year-End Donations

IR-2006-192, Dec. 14, 2006

WASHINGTON — Individuals and businesses making contributions to charity should keep in mind several important tax law changes made last summer by the Pension Protection Act.

The new law offers older owners of individual retirement accounts a new way to give to charity. It also includes rules designed to provide both taxpayers and the government greater certainty in determining what may be deducted as a charitable contribution. Some of these changes include the following.

New Tax Break for IRA Owners

An IRA owner, age 70 1/2 or over, can directly transfer tax-free, up to \$100,000 per year to an eligible

charitable organization. This option is available in tax years 2006 and 2007. Eligible IRA owners can take advantage of this provision, regardless of whether they itemize their deductions. Distributions from employer-sponsored retirement plans, including SIMPLE IRAs and simplified employee pension (SEP) plans are not eligible.

To qualify, the funds must be contributed directly by the IRA trustee to the eligible charity. Amounts so transferred are not taxable and no deduction is available for the amount given to the charity.

If you have an IRA and are required to take a taxable minimum distribution each year you may chose to have all or part of your required distribution paid to your favorite non-profit, up to a maximum of \$100,000. Check with your IRA manager (trustee), tax advisor or the IRS for further information on how you can make a contribution to DIBS for habitat conservation under this new law. Note that it is only applicable for tax years 2006 and 2007.

John Porter, Executive Director

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, honorariums, and memorial gifts. This list represents contributions received between September 1, 2006 and January 15, 2007. If we have omitted your name from this list, please contact our treasurer, Mary Porter at 251/861-2120 or maryflintporter@gmail.com

Special Gifts:

Mr. & Mrs. Butch Baggett

Dallas & Jimmie Baillo

Gayle & Sandy Barnett

Gregory J. Harber

Debi & Greg Jackson

Carrie & David Dortch

Charles D. Duncan

Jennifer & Terry Hartley

Sandra & Edward B. McDermott

Renee McDonald

Bobbie & Jim Meade

Pat & Robert Meaher

C. E. Person

Edwina & James Robertson

Alice Nelson Shelley

Karl Ulicny & Tracy Tiller

D. A. Urquhart, Jr.

Jeanne & Russell Voisin

**In celebration of marriage of
John & Mary Porter**

Lela Anne Brewer

Jinksie & Denson Burnum

Pat & Bill Edwards

Shirley & Frank Farrell

Judge & Jeanette Hancock

Ann & Al Miller

Linda & Dick Reynolds

Betty & Stan Susina

Memorials:

For: Maxie Taylor Bryant

From: Bianca Allen

Jinksie & Denson Burnum

Mr. & Mrs. Charles J. Flemming

Tom & Kathy Gerhart

Clara "Topsy" & Angelo Granata

Gregory J. Harber

Ludwig C Hoffmann &
Barbara Ann Kidd-Hoffman

Mary & John Porter
Elberta G. Reid

Augusta Robinson

Frances E. Schwemmer

Ann & Bob Tate

For: Van Chaplin

From: Jinksie & Denson Burnum

Alice & Chris Christenson

Judge & Jeanette Hancock

Catherine C. Hodges

For: Bill Cowles

From: Beverly & John Winn

For: Joshua Durbin

From: Elizabeth S. Sanders

For: Virginia Golden

Emmel Golden

For: Shane Hulsy

From: Judge & Jeanette Hancock

For: Jacqueline H. Porter (Mimi)

From: Jan & John Porter, III & Family

For: Robert R. Reid

From: The Honorable & Mrs. Terry Oden

Marie-Ann Raymaekers

Larry F. Warren

For: Al Wilson (father of Mike Wilson)

From: Elberta G. Reid

CBA

Honorariums:

For: Margaret & Jerry Pennington

From: Carl & Gene Billion

For: John F. Porter, Jr

From: Crepe Myrtle Garden Club

Elberta G. Reid

For: Charlotte Fanz

From: Bianca Allen

For: Elberta Reid

From: Douglass Ruyshton Corey

Gregory J. Harber

Memberships

New Family Life Members

Penny & Ron Musgrove

Snowy Egret Level

Renewed Members:

Linda & Dick Reynolds

Ann & Bob Tate

Judy & Kari Ventre

Rose-breasted Grosbeak Level

New Members:

David Warren, MD.

Frank M. Wilson, MD.

Renewed Members:

Betsy Eagar

Marsha & David Barnett

Patsy & James Causey

Alice & Chris Christenson

Jennifer & Terry Hartley

Charlene & Thomas Pettey

Stella & Frank McPhillips

Pat & Robert Meaher

Debra & Thomas Reinke

Ann St. Clair

Eva & Dennis Strickland

A. John Stringer

Amanda & Nathaniel Winstead

Indigo Bunting Level

New Members:

Marilyn & Bruce Adkins

Edith M. Baker

William & Paula Belmont

Mary M. Bledsoe

Dorothy D. Boyd

Claire H. Fairley

Charles & Susan Hutchison

Mary Pickard

Augusta Robinson

Jean & James Sullivan

Cont'd from page 3

Lesley & Jim Wheeler

Renewed Members:

Randy & Carol Alford

Mr. & Mrs. M. D. Bell, Jr.

Venetia B. Friend

John Tullo & Lucy Harber

Jim & Carolyn Henning

Catherine Hodges

Anne H. Isbister

Jesse & Susan Jones

Peggy King

Mr. & Mrs. John Krupsky

Noel Merkel

Linda & David Miller

Jay & Lisa Murray

Mary Elizabeth Perry

Pila Dees Preston

Rufus & Merilu Rose

Karen & Bill Schneller

John Larry Smith, MD

Gift Memberships

For:

Dr. & Mrs. Frank Cope

Ray & Lori Crumbley

Andrew C. Dees (Happy Birthday!)

Bill & Linda Elmore

Jane Logan & Lee Ann Harris

Winnie Hutchison

Jean Broach & Jayne Kennedy

Mary Ann Killion

Bill & Sandy Lockhart

Louisiana Loons

W. H. March, Jr.

Candy & Sally McDaris

Carl Meyer

Emily T. Miller

Mike & Ruth Nichols

Melanie Ortiz

Robert Perkins

Diane & Robert Propster

David T. Rogers

Dr. & Mrs. Charles Rutherford

Debbie & Brian Sturges

Louise Ayre Tommie

Chris Underwood

Cathy Campbell & Jackie Vetter

Perry Weinberg

Elaine Stonecypher

Russell & Jeanne Voisin

Cardinal Level

New Members:

Ellen Broach

Michael DeLaney

Sally Ericson

Julie Kenney

Angela McGuire

Brig. Gen (Ret) Bob McInvate

Bill O'Neal

Barbara Rancour

Caralie & John Toomey

Renewed Members:

Dallas & Jimmie Baillio

William B. Carpenter, Jr.

David C. Chaffin, M.D.

Jeff W. Collier

John & Teddy Dismukes

Blanche S. Emerson

Barbara & Bryon Gathright

Emmel Golden

Clara L. "Topsy" Granata

Greg Harber

Sandra Kendall

Joan M. King

Lynne B. Lovoy

Sandra & Edward B. McDermott

Renee McDonald

Arthur & JoAnn McLean

Laura Meeds

Catherine & Ralph Neal

David & Raye Newton

Kathryn & Pelham Rowan

Floyd & Libba Sherrod

Ginger Simpson

Randy Venhaus

Elizabeth M. Wolfe

From:

Leigh & Brent Faircloth

Jesse & Susan Jones

Phila Dees Preston

Jesse & Susan Jones

Ellen Broach

Katy & Bill Hutchison

Ellen Broach

James W. Killion

Jean Folsom / Kerry Andrews

Linda Adrion

Marjorie Adams & Carol Adams-Davis

Jesse & Susan Jones

Jacqueline Meyer

Marjorie Adams & Carol Adams-Davis

Glen Connor

Rosalind Swart

Richard Horan

Sharon O'Dair

Temd & Lucy Deason

Leigh & Brent Faircloth

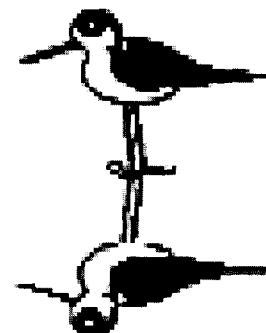
Lesley & Jim Wheeler

Jean Folsom

Larry F. Wright

Ellen Broach

Marjorie Adams & Carol Adams-Davis



President's Message

Gregory J. Harber

I want to take this opportunity to wish our members a happy, healthy and prosperous new year. I spent the holidays with my family in Florida and am truly thankful for the many blessings I enjoy – we should never take them for granted.

It is with sadness that I acknowledge in this column the passing of Maxie Bryant. Maxie was a long time supporter of DIBS and for years served on our board of directors. I recall with great fondness the times Maxie would call just to chat a while about this and that, and to encourage me. Her cheerful ways and good humor always left me feeling better after we had talked.

I suppose what I admired most about Maxie, and will miss dearly, was her determination to offer her support in any way she could, with whatever task was at hand. Whenever we held a workday at the Goat Trees Reserve to clear out the unruly tangles and open up the paths, Maxie was always there in her chair, with some snacks to fortify us and a drink of water to be sure we stayed hydrated.

Maxie was one of those people whose influence in my life I considered to be a blessing. Our condolences to her family and her special friend, J. R. Gant.

As one can see in John's Executive Director report our property acquisitions continue to grow with new properties being added in recent months, and more hopefully to come in the near future. At this point in our organization's growth our efforts to permanently protect and preserve as much suitable migratory bird habitat as possible is a primary goal. Coastal habitat lost today will

not likely ever be recovered tomorrow, hence the reason we are so earnestly focusing our efforts on habitat protection. Our thanks to John for his diligent work.

Another of our goals is to raise awareness on the island about the roles we all play in protecting the birds and the habitat they – and we – need to live. One of the ways we accomplish this is through our annual International Migratory Bird Day festival. The celebration is slated for Saturday, April 14th, in Cadillac Square Park.

This year's festival will run from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and will feature vendors, information and sales booths, activities for children and live music. There will also be guided bird walks for beginning birders who are eager to identify and learn about the neotropical migrants found at the various island hotspots.

Unlike past years, our Birdathon and America's Birdiest City/County competition will be held on the weekend following the IMBD festival – to take advantage of the influx of experienced birders on hand for the spring meeting of the Alabama Ornithological Society. This will undoubtedly increase our chances of retaining our title as America's Birdiest Small Coastal City. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this fun event. Teams are limited to four people, with prizes awarded to the members of the first place team.

Mark your calendars now and plan to join us for the IMBD festival and the America's Birdiest Coastal City Birdathon. Further details will be published in our spring newsletter.

~ Membership Application ~ Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Inc.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Membership Levels:

- Cardinal, \$25
- Indigo Bunting \$50
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak, \$100
- Snowy Egret, \$250
- Great Egret, \$500
- Life Member, \$1,000
- Family Life Member, \$1,250

My check for \$_____ is enclosed

Please make check payable to: DIBS, Inc.

Mail this form and check to:

Mary F. Porter, DIBS Treasurer

P.O. Box 1295

Dauphin Island, AL 36528-1295

Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Inc

Property Inventory 10/23/2006

Phase	Street Address	Legal Description	Lot Size	Acres	Appraised	Purchase	Close Date
III S	202-204 Grant	S 1/2 Lot 6	100x150	0.34	\$62,000	\$62,000	2/14/2005
III S	300 Grant	Lot 4	225x150	0.77	\$45,000	\$45,000	9/23/2005
III S	402 Grant	N 1/2 Lot 2 etc	112x149	0.38	\$160,000	\$160,000	10/1/2004
IIIS	604 Bienville Blvd	Lot 3 of Lot 7 St. Subd	65X148	0.22	\$70,000	\$75,000	10/6/2006
III S	301 Ft Conde	S 1/2 etc	125X150	0.43		\$31,000	5/30/2003
III G	113 Gen Gorgas	Lot 18 Blk EH	125X100	0.29	\$26,000	\$21,000	6/11/2004
III G	117 Gen Gorgas	Lot 19 Block EH	125X100	0.29	\$26,000	\$20,000	5/24/2004
III G	121 Gen Gorgas	Lot 21 Block EH	125X100	0.29	\$26,000	\$0	5/12/2004
II	715 Infanta	Lot 58, Blk EF	100x125	0.29	\$59,000	\$59,000	1/25/2005
II	710 Infanta	Lot 45 Blk EF	100X125	0.29	\$95,000	\$95,000	6/25/2006
II	707 Houston Pl	Lot 72 Blk EF	142x130	0.42	\$25,000	\$25,000	8/5/2002
II	708 Itasca PL	Lot 100 Blk EF	142x130	0.42	\$12,000	\$8,000	11/26/2001
II	707 Hunley Pl	Lot 108 Blk EF	142x130	0.42	\$55,000	\$50,000	11/21/2001
II	709 Itasca Pl	Lot 109 Blk EF	142x130	0.42	\$45,000	\$0	11/21/2001
I	701 Conti	Lot 16 Blk A-12	100x125	0.29	\$40,000	\$40,000	2/18/2003
I	703 Conti	Lot 17 Blk A-12	100x125	0.29	\$40,000	\$40,000	2/18/2003
I	702 Cadillac Ave.	Lot 14 Blk A-12	90x135	0.28	\$40,000	\$35,000	4/29/2002
I	700 Cadillac Ave.	Lot 15 Blk A-12	100x135	0.31	\$40,000	\$40,000	2/15/2002
I	211 Bienville Blvd	Lot 13 Block EU	100x135	0.31	\$39,000	\$35,000	5/8/2001
I	809 - 811 Chaumont Ave.	Lots 9 & 10 Blk 139	100x150	0.31	\$33,000	\$17,000	11/7/2000
I	812 Chaumont Ave.	Lots 3 & 4 Blk 138	100x150	0.34	\$35,000	\$32,000	7/14/2000
	Total			7.40	\$973,000	\$890,000	
		# Lots		21			

Phase I = Shell Mounds, Goat Trees and Audubon Sanct. Exit road, II = Tupelo Gum Swamp,
 IIIG = Gorgas Swamp, III S = Steiner Block



Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Inc.
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 Dauphin Island, Alabama 36528
 251.861.2120/phone
 251.861.2204/fax
 dbirdr@centurytel.net

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

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 361 Birmingham, AL

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