



SEARCH Pick Newspaper [v] Enter Keyword(s) GO FIND A BUSINESS Enter Category

- Home News+Biz Local Sports Forums+Chat Cams+Radio Living Entertainment CLASS

Search

[Back To Your Search Results](#) | [Search Again](#)

The Huntsville Times

Click here to subscribe!

[» More From The Huntsville Times](#)

Dauphin Island is important to the birds, and it needs your help

11/20/03

Huntsville Times

Perhaps no single place in Alabama is more important to its bird life than Dauphin Island on the west side of Mobile Bay. And thus no area is in such dire need of protection.

Located some 600 miles north of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, Dauphin Island is a critical stopover in the spring for migrating songbirds - the warblers, vireos, flycatchers, thrushes and tanagers, among others, that breed in North America.

Because the birds fly nonstop across the Gulf of Mexico, the first landfall is critical. It needs provide food and shelter where the birds can rest and replace depleted stores of energy.

▼ From Our Advertiser



But Dauphin Island, like much of the Gulf Coast, is rapidly developing, and with development has come the loss of habitat. In 1983, the island had 650 residents. Today, its population is twice that. According to a recent article in the Mobile Register, some 500 homes have been built on the island in the past 10 years.

MORE SEARCHES

Classifieds

- » [Jobs](#)
- » [Autos](#)
- » [Real Estate](#)
- » [All Classifieds](#)

Death Notices & Obituaries

- » [Death Notices](#)
- » [Guest Books](#)
- » [Obituaries](#)

Local Businesses

- » [Find A Business](#)

Entertainment

- » [Movies](#)
- » [Music](#)
- » [Arts & Events](#)
- » [Dining & Bars](#)

Local Web Sites

- » [Community Connection](#)

SEND THIS PAGE

PRINT THIS PAGE

» Advertise

Get The E Jobs | Autos All Classifieds

Motorcycle recreational for sale

Although the island has long benefited from the efforts of birdwatchers and other conservationists, the need has a greater urgency. To that end, the Dauphin Island Sanctuaries has been created from an earlier group, and the organization has a challenging goal.

It hopes to raise \$3 million to buy some 35 acres of critical bird habitat - mostly forests and marshes - and keep it from being developed. It seeks another \$1 million to maintain and to protect the lands once they are acquired.

Some tracts are targeted for outright purchase. Others may be preserved through conservation easements or landowner donations.

If you want to help, here's how to find out more: Contact John Porter, executive director, Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, (251) 861-2120. E-mail: dibirder@starband.net.

All donations are tax deductible.

A national honor

Before the year is out, I should note that two active and involved Alabama birders received a prestigious honor last summer from the American Birding Association, the leading national organization devoted to birdwatching.

Bob and Martha Sargent of Clay in Jefferson County received the Ludlow Griscom Award, which is given each year for "outstanding contributions in regional ornithology."

The Sargents have been working for more than 15 years to monitor the status of neotropical migrants in Alabama and the Southeast. Their main focus has been on hummingbirds, and their spring and fall banding stations at Fort Morgan have become a tool for public education as well as for bird conservation.

In 1994, the Sargents and others formed the Hummer/Bird Study Group, which now has thousands of members in the United States and abroad. If you're interested, the Web site is hummingbirdsplus.org.

A lot of hawks

Among the hawks of eastern North America, only the broad-winged (*Buteo platypterus*) regularly migrates in massive numbers to the tropics each winter. Most of the famous "hawk-watch" locations in the East provide good views of broad-wings as they travel south.

On Sept. 15, at Hawk Ridge in Duluth, Minn., birders counted an astounding 101,698 broad wings on that one day. The previous high single-day count was some 48,000 in 1993. A variety of factors, mainly climate, were cited for this year's high number.

Broad-winged hawks, smaller than the familiar red-tails, nest throughout much of North America. They pass through Alabama until almost December. I heard one Saturday over my house on Monte Sano, its hoarse, whistling call evoking greener trees and warmer days.

John Ehinger is The Times' editorial page editor. His Birdwatching column appears the third week of each month on the Outdoors page. E-mail: johne@htimes.com.

[The Best Local Classifieds](#): [Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Place An Ad](#)



Special Home Delivery Offers!

[The Birmingham News](#) | [The Huntsville Times](#) | [Mobile Register](#)

[About Us](#) | [Help/Feedback](#) | [Advertise With Us](#)

Use of this site constitutes acceptance of our [User Agreement](#). Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

©2003 [al.com](#). All Rights Reserved.

