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Ornithophilous Flowers

By Dr. Bill Summerour

Editor's Note: After Dr. Summerour's August 15, 2012 talk on hummingbirds, many attendees asked that the list of "bird loving" plants be printed here.

All of the plants listed below are good for hummingbirds. They seem to favor different flowers in different yards depending on what's available. The first dozen or so are my favorites. The Mexican sunflower, scarlet hibiscus, and sultan's turban, listed last, are "flags" more than anything else, something to get a hummingbird's attention if it's passing through the area. Those with an asterisk do best in full sunlight.

2012 Birdfest a Success

By Fran Morley

This year's BirdFest welcomed more than 400 registrants, an increase of 75 over the 2011 event, with visitors from 20 states and Canada—from as far away as Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Arizona, and the province of Ontario. "Serious birders travel a great distance for the chance to add a bird to their life list, and they know that our area is a prime spot to do that during the fall and spring migrations," said Kathy Hicks, local birder and photographer. This year, visitors reported seeing nearly 150 species of birds (as well as butterflies, dolphins, snakes, and alligators) while on the 20-plus BirdFest trips.

Mobile Bay Audubon members who are on Facebook are invited to join the BirdFest group to keep up with news, post photos, and to share birding information with others. "The BirdFest Facebook group has about 130 members from all over," said BirdFest Nestkeeper Fran Morley. "Most are local, but there are birders, writers, photographers, people who work in conservation, and others; most have attended BirdFest in the past; others hope to in the future. It's a nice way to connect with those who share similar interests." If you are already on Facebook, enter "Alabama Coastal BirdFest" in the search box, and then click to join the group.

The 10th annual Alabama Coastal BirdFest is on the books for 2013. Mark your calendars for Oct. 3-5. Registration will open by around August 1, 2013.

MBAS WINTER 2013 CALENDAR

December

11 Christmas Party and General Meeting "Butterflies of Alabama, Glimpses Into Their Lives" Presented by **Paulette Ogard** and **Sara Bright**. 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, Christmas Party at 6:00 pm, Program at 7:00 pm. Audubon will provide sandwiches, members are asked to bring sweets or other food items. Bring a friend.

January

8 General Meeting "Nature Through Our Lenses 2012" A beautiful 20 minute DVD developed by **Kathy Hicks** for the Alabama Coastal BirdFest. The stunning photos were taken by some of the area's finest photographers. 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, 7:00pm. Bring a friend.

February

12 General Meeting "Gulf Coast Birds" A DVD presentation by **John Borom**. 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, 7:00pm. Bring a friend.

March

12 General Meeting TBA, 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, 7:00 pm. Bring a friend.

Ornithophilous Flowers, cont.

Bottlebrush (*Callistemon sp.*)*
Rosebud salvia (*Salvia involucrata*)
Cigar plant (*Cuphea ignea*)*
Candy corn (*Cuphea micropetala*)*
Cardinal spires (*Odontonema cuspidatum*)
Limelight salvia (*Salvia mexicana var limelight*)
Ocampo salvia (*Salvia mexicana var. ocampo*)
Black and blue anise sage (*Salvia guaranatica*)
Mexican fuchsia sage (*Salvia iodantha*)
Forsythia sage (*salvia madrensis*)
Shrimp plant (*Justica brandegeana*)
Scarlet sage (*Salvia coccinea*)
Sinningea sellovii
Turk's Cap (*Malvaviscus arboreus*)
Fire bush (*Hamelia patens*)*
Red honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)
Porterweed (*Stachytarpheta sp.*)
Red firecracker plant (*Russelia sarmentosa*)
Manettia vine (*Manettia cordifolia*)
Mexican sunflower (*Tythonia rotundifolia*)
Scarlet hibiscus (*Hibiscus coccineus*)
Sultan's turban (*Malvaviscus penduliflorus*)

New Educational Exhibit

By John Borom

A beautiful articulated Brown Pelican skeleton was recently added to the educational exhibits in the **Ottillie Halstead Visitor Center at the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve**. Suspended from the ceiling of the classroom, you are reminded of a pterosaur, the flying reptiles that occupied the same ecological niche 215 million years ago as Brown Pelicans occupy today. The unique exhibit was designed and constructed by **Mozart DeDeaux**, the talented Education Coordinator at the National Audubon Society's Pascagoula River Audubon Center. The project was funded by the Mobile Bay Audubon Society.

The general characteristics of a bird's skeleton are lightness, length of the neck, very decided difference between the fore and hind limbs, and reduction in the apparent number of bones of the hand and foot by their fusion with one another. The skull joins the neck by a single condyle as in reptiles, The jaw is not attached to the cranium directly as in mammals, but by a free quadrate as in snakes and some extinct reptiles. Many ribs of the chest cavity bear little processes directed upwards and backwards, termed uncinat processes, and these are found in almost all birds. Outside the class of birds such processes occur only in *Sphenodon* a New Zealand lizard, which, in anatomical character, differs widely from all other existing lizards, and, in cartilage

Eastern Shore Birding Winter / Spring 2013 Calendar

Here is the winter / spring 2013 schedule! About a week before each field trip, I will send out an email to those who have signed up giving details. This includes meeting time and place, lunch plans, etc. If you are not currently receiving the emails and wish to, please email me at gplindsey@bellsouth.net or call 929-2837.

January 9 – Orientation for new and intermediate birders.
An overview of the basics of birding. Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship, 9:00 am - Noon
January 16 - Daphne Bay Front and Shell Station Overlook
January 23 – Farragut's Landing, Magnolia Landfill
February 6 – Blakeley Mudflats
February 20 – **Gulf Shores Water Treatment Plant, Gulf State Park**
March 6 – Maeher Park, Battleship, Five Rivers
March 20 – Blakeley State Park
April 3 – Dauphin Island for Spring Migration
April 10 - Ft. Morgan – Bird Banding and Spring Migration
April 17 – Extra trip to DI or Ft. Morgan if birds are good
May 1 – Boat Trip - place, time, leader TBA
May 15 – Mystery Trip – place, time, leader TBA



Installation of Pelican Skeleton

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- A one-year subscription (3 issues) to our chapter newsletter.
- Automatic membership in National Audubon Society, and a one-year subscription to Audubon, its award-winning magazine
- Admission to Audubon Centers across the country

To join, go to their webpage www.audubon.org and click on Member Center. Follow that to the page to join. If you do not have access to the web, you can send your membership information to National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, PO Box 422247, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6716. A one year membership costs \$20. Be sure to include our chapter code A01 and 7XCH so that you will receive our local newsletters as well.