

# focus



Abu Dhabi, April 2013  
Vol 37 (4)



Emirates Natural History Group

Patron: H.E. Sheikh Nahayan bin Mubarak Al Nahayan

## EDITORIAL

Last month saw a long-awaited but still exciting development on the conservation front in Abu Dhabi: the official listing of the Al Wathba Wetland Reserve as a Ramsar site (see below), the fourth after Ras Al Khor in Dubai, Wadi Wurayah in Fujairah, and Al Hafiya (Khor Kalba) in Sharjah. The Ramsar delegate who gave us an extra talk last month (see p. 5) explained the benefits of linking up with this international conservation network, including wiser use and more effective monitoring of both freshwater and marine wetlands resources.

This listing was especially timely, following on the two popular birding trips to the Al Wathba Reserve this season and the EAD's Terrestrial Baseline Survey training session held there on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The latter inaugurated what promises to be a closer, mutually beneficial collaboration between the EAD and both the Abu Dhabi and Al Ain chapters of the ENHG, as we use records made on our trips afield to contribute to a deeper understanding of the natural environment here. Along with continued collaboration on that effort, the professional-quality cabinet necessary for ENHG-Al Ain Chair Dr. Brigitte Howarth's continuing curatorship of the two chapters' invaluable arthropod collection has now been installed, beginning the slow process of carefully preparing those specimens for long-term storage.

And yet another collaboration – between the ENHG-AD and AGEDI (Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative), begun this Jan (See Dec *Focus*) & set to continue, is the Blue Carbon Demonstration Project, in which ENHG volunteers will assist EAD officials in monitoring the important carbon-sequestering properties of the UAE's mangrove forests, which the Ramsar Convention initiative promises to assist us all to protect.

*Keith Taylor*

### Al Wathba Wetland Reserve named Fourth Ramsar Site in the UAE

[Ms. Nessrine Alzahlawi, Assistant Advisor for Asia-Oceania, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, who arranged Dr Lew Young's May 29<sup>th</sup> Ramsar presentation to the UAE and accompanied him on talks with the UAE government officials named below, sent the ENHG the following message. – Ed.]

A big congratulations to the UAE and to Abu Dhabi! After just a month of the listing of the Al Hafiya and Mangrove Protected Area of Khor Kalba in the Emirate of Sharjah, the 4<sup>th</sup> Ramsar Site for the UAE has now been listed under the Ramsar Convention, the Al Wathba Wetland Reserve Ramsar Site in Abu Dhabi Emirate. Please find below the announcement posted on the Ramsar Forum as well as the announcement on the Ramsar Webpage at this link:

[http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-archives-2013-usa-wathba/main/ramsar/1-26-45-590%5E26158\\_4000\\_0\\_\\_](http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-archives-2013-usa-wathba/main/ramsar/1-26-45-590%5E26158_4000_0__)

A special thanks to all the colleagues at the Ministry of Environment and Water of the UAE and the Environment Agency of Abu Dhabi. Congratulations to you!

*Nessrine Alzahlawi*

## In this issue

- Page 1:** Front cover
- Page 2:** Editorial, Al Wathba Wetlands Reserve Named Fourth Ramsar Site in the UAE
- Page 3:** Al Wathba Reserve Birding Lists, Musaffah Channel Birding List
- Page 4:** Nepal Hill Country: Update & Urgent Invitation for Volunteer Teachers
- Page 5:** UAE Dolphin Project, Recent Speakers
- Page 6:** Upcoming Speaker, Corporate Sponsors, In the News Media
- Page 7:** In the News Media Cont'd, ENHG Bookstall, Websites of General Interest
- Page 8:** Committee Members, Lectures, Field Trips, Research & Conservation Fund, Equipment for Members' Use, Marine Life Rescue Contact Info., Newsletter Details

### FRONT COVER PICTURE

Photograph: Greater Spotted Eagle, Al Wathba Wetland Reserve

Photographer: Oscar Campbell

### This month's contributors

Nessrine Alzahlawi, Oscar Campbell, DNHG, Valerie Chalmers, Hanne & Jens Eriksen, Gary Feulner, Alberto Gonzalez, Salim Javed, Dwight Peck, Mark Preece, Lew Young

### ENHG Membership Information

Annual membership in the Abu Dhabi chapter of the ENHG is 100 Dhs per individual and now 150 Dhs per family membership. See Membership Sec. or Asst. at the next meeting for a membership form. Membership renewals for 2013 are due in January.

Members are entitled to join the group on all day trips and overnight camping trips. Each member is also entitled to a copy of the ENHG's normally annual peer-reviewed journal, *Tribulus*. Volume 20 is now available at ENHG meetings.

[Nessrine also forwarded to us the following official statement by Mr. Dwight Peck, Documentation Officer Ramsar Convention Secretariat. –Ed.]

The fourth Wetland of International Importance to be designated by the government of the United Emirates is also its first Ramsar Site in the emirate of Abu Dhabi. As summarized by Ramsar's Ms Nessrine Alzahlawi, Assistant Advisor for Asia-Oceania, **Al Wathba Wetland Reserve** (500 hectares, 24°15'41"N 54°35'08"E) is a complex of natural and human-made surface water bodies located approximately 40 km southeast of Abu Dhabi city. Formerly a salt flat ('sabkha' in Arabic) that used to flood only during winter rainfall, it is now maintained by a regular supply of tertiary treated freshwater from a nearby sewage treatment plant. This regulation of the water level results in hypersaline, brackish and freshwater habitat of varying depths, providing an ideal site for many wetland-dependent species within a hyper-arid biogeographic region.

The area was declared as a reserve after the first successful breeding of the Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) there in 1998, marking the first known successful breeding of this species in the Arabian Peninsula since 1922. Threatened wildlife can be seen, including the critically endangered Sociable Lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*) and the vulnerable Eastern Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) and Greater Spotted Eagle (*Aquila clanga*). The site also regularly supports breeding populations of the Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) and Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*). Access to the general public is currently limited to educational tours and bird watching groups; however, a future visitor centre is being planned to encourage tourism.

There are presently 2,119 Wetlands of International Importance in the Ramsar List, designated by 165 Contracting Parties and covering an area of 205,360,366 hectares.

**Dwight Peck**

### Al Wathba Reserve Birding Lists

#### March 9<sup>th</sup> Trip

Greater Flamingo	Cattle Egret
Glossy Ibis	Little Grebe
Black-necked Grebe	Eurasian Coot
Common Moorhen	Northern Shoveler
Mallard	Eurasian Teal
Northern Pintail	Greater Spotted Eagle
Western Marsh Harrier	Black-tailed Godwit
Pied Avocet	White-tailed Lapwing
Common Ringed Plover	Common Redshank
Marsh Sandpiper	Wood Sandpiper
Common Greenshank	Ruff
Dunlin	Little Stint
Black-winged Stilt	Curlew Sandpiper
Black-headed Gull	Eurasian Reed Warbler
Bluethroat	Clamorous Reed
Warbler	White Wagtail
Water Pipit	Barn Swallow
Yellow Wagtail	Kentish Plover
Red-wattled Lapwing	Daurian Shrike
Tawny Pipit	Red-necked Phalarope
Graceful Prinia	Purple Gallinule (Purple Swamphen)
Little Green Bee-eater	White-eared Bulbul



Photo: Hanne & Jens Eriksen

Purple Swamphen (not at Al Wathba Reserve)

Special highlight: two Purple Gallinules, a species I have seen only twice before at this site. They are ultra-secretive and hard to find, but there must be a possibility they will breed there – the habitat is perfect. We also saw 2 Great Spotted Eagles and were fascinated to hear from Mustafa that Dr. Salim Javed had caught 2 and radio-tagged them this winter - it will be very interesting to hear where they end up!

#### April 20<sup>th</sup> Trip

Purple Sunbird	White-eared Bulbul
Black-winged Stilt	Pied Avocet
White-tailed Lapwing	Kentish Plover
Greater Flamingo	Ruff
Little Stint	Glossy Ibis
Moorhen	Black-tailed Godwit
Collared Dove	Curlew Sandpiper
Common Sandpiper	Wood Sandpiper
Red-necked Phalarope	Collared Pratincole
Coot	Garganey
Common Redshank	Cattle Egret
Clamorous Reed Warbler	



Photo: Mark Preece

Greater Flamingos at Al Wathba Reserve

**Oscar Campbell**

### Musaffah Channel Birding List

#### March 16<sup>th</sup> Boat Trip with Captain Maarten Verhage

Clamorous Reed Warbler	White Wagtail
Black-headed Gull	Slender-billed Gull
[Steppe / Caspian Gull]	Gull-billed Tern
Great Black-headed Gull	Caspian Tern
Lesser Crested Tern	White-cheeked Tern
Saunders's Tern	Socotra Cormorant
Great Cormorant	Greater Flamingo
Osprey	Grey Heron
Western Reef Heron	Bar-tailed Godwit
Eurasian Curlew	Whimbrel
Eurasian Oystercatcher	Black-winged Stilt
Common Ringed Plover	Kentish Plover
Lesser Sand Plover	Greater Sand Plover
Grey Plover	Dunlin
Curlew Sandpiper	Common Redshank
Common Greenshank	Terek Sandpiper
Ruddy Turnstone	

**Oscar Campbell**

## Nepal Hill Country: Update & Urgent Invitation for Teaching Volunteers

[DNHG Chairman Gary Feulner accompanied the recent DNHG/ENHG field trip to Nepal and has sent the following update and request for volunteers. – Ed.] For the second year in a row I have stayed on in Makadum after the DNHG/ENHG visit to be present for the opening weeks of the school year at GN English Boarding School, our host in the hill country.

The early weeks have once again been a 'soft' opening, while parents make choices and buy books and uniforms for their children. This has given us a chance to focus on speaking and writing, in advance of commencing the textbook curriculum.

This year I have assisted in teaching a number of classes and was very pleasantly surprised to learn that our second and third graders already have a fairly solid knowledge of English verb tenses (e.g., present, past and future simple, continuous, perfect and perfect continuous) and can relate them to the Nepali equivalents. I'm sure I didn't know as much when I was in second and third grade. This gives us a strong basis for encouraging more active and spontaneous use of the language.

I have also doubled as a music teacher, both on an eight-tone xylophone (a very popular item) and with a *cappella* renditions of primary school standbys such as *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*, *Are You Sleeping*, *Brother John?* and *Old MacDonald Had a Farm*. And I may yet have a brief career as director of stage productions such as *The Enormous Turnip* and *Three Billy Goats Gruff*.

Enrolment is expected to approach 150 students, up from last year despite the discontinuation of our 'school bus' service to the largest nearby village (which proved unsustainable, among other things). The number of boarders is up from 20 to 35. All this is a tribute to our reputation, based on a combination of founder Narayan Karki's good name, the quality of our facilities (solar-powered computers and video facilities, library with books, games and toys, a solid teaching staff and the demonstrably good performance of many of our students.

Our teachers include five individuals with good functional English (six including Narayan). None of the government schools can match that, and of course none are English medium (not to mention the other problems endemic to government schools in Nepal and neighboring countries). A further announced goal has been to have on board one or two foreign teachers each year. Last year we had for several months the benefit of an American volunteer, a US Peace Corps veteran. It was a disappointment when her age proved to be an insurmountable obstacle at the visa office.

This year, as our 2013 DNHG visitors know, we had made arrangements for a young American lady (with a TEFL certificate and a year's experience in rural China) to join us for the year while her husband was deployed with the US military. It was she who purchased and programmed the tablets that some of the UAE visitors helped to transport to Nepal.

Unfortunately the gods have not smiled on us. Less than

two weeks before her scheduled arrival in early May, her young husband began to suffer from a debilitating but as-yet undiagnosed ailment. Several initial diagnoses have been revised and a serious condition is now considered likely. Nothing is certain, but the young lady is understandably not in a position to join us in Nepal until diagnosis and until medical treatment has restored a measure of stability. Optimistically, she still hopes to be able to join us after a few months but there is unfortunately no guarantee of that.

From the school's point of view (and Narayan's) this turn of events is potentially disastrous. The village community is by nature a very skeptical one and his failure to make good on the 'promise' of a foreign volunteer will count heavily against his credibility, notwithstanding the exceptional circumstances and the effort we have in fact put into recruiting a candidate. Village parents recognize very well the contributions that a foreign teacher can be expected to make, and it is clear that for many of them this is a major incentive for investing in our school.

The PR problem will be exacerbated by the continuing efforts of a subset of the local community -- principally those who benefit from the existing power structure and work against the efforts of Narayan and other younger men to make improvements in the way things are done. Unfortunately, village minds can be fickle and easily manipulated, as I have seen before in other contexts.

For that reason we are making urgent efforts to try to find an interim solution in the form of short-term foreign volunteers (3 weeks to 3 months). We are pursuing various alternatives, but we have also written to ask our DNHG/ENHG visitors for any assistance they may be able to offer in soliciting interested volunteers for the coming summer. For a full-time position we had hoped to recruit university graduates, but that is not a requirement for a short-term position. For the short-term, university students on summer break would be a good fit -- and of course the same would be true for any professional teachers who are not yet committed for the summer.

ENHG visitors will know the physical circumstances at the school from personal experience. Makadum is 'remote' in western terms. Electricity and reliable internet access have yet to reach it, although both are now expected by year-end. Accommodation at the school is relatively comfortable, but summer is monsoon time, so the weather will be warmer but wetter than the NHG groups experienced. Any position would be essentially on a volunteer basis, although we would provide compensation at Nepali levels.

Any suggestions or inquiries should be directed to Gary or Narayan as follows:

Gary Feulner: [gfeulner@gmail.com](mailto:gfeulner@gmail.com) / ++977-984-320-1984 (Nepal mobile) / ++9714-306-5570 (Dubai home number) [Gary expects to be in Nepal until May 24.]

Narayan Karki: [gnnknp@gmail.com](mailto:gnnknp@gmail.com) / ++977-984-328-8868 (Nepal mobile) / ++977-981-899-1058 (Narayan's nephew Bishnu in Kathmandu, who will take a message)

NB: See Facebook page: GN English Boarding School

**Gary Feulner**

## UAE Dolphin Project

ENHG members can now visit the official website of the UAE Dolphin Project at: <http://www.uaedolphinproject.org>. The UAE Dolphin Project is a non-profit initiative that aims to investigate dolphin populations along the UAE coastline, to collect and disseminate scientific baseline information and raise public awareness of the local marine environment and the dolphin species on our doorstep.

One of our main goals is to create a central database of sightings made by the public. Members are encouraged to report any sightings and actively help this local research. The Project Director is DNHG member Dr. Ada Natoli, an adjunct faculty member at UAE University and a DNHG Member and speaker. A monthly newsletter, UAE Dolphin Project News, will disseminate information about dolphins and recent research findings in this field as well as provide updates on the progress, achievements and activities of the project.

You can sign up to the UAE Dolphin Project News from the project website homepage. Latest posts can be found at: [UAE Dolphin Project is on air!](#)

DNHG

## Recent Speakers



**Dr. Lew Young, serving on the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, is Senior Regional Advisor for Asia-Oceania.** A Hong Kong-born Chinese holding British citizenship, Lew has been Manager of the WWF Hong Kong Mai Po Nature Reserve since 1991, and was actively involved in the listing of the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar site in 1995. Since then he has worked closely with the Hong Kong government to develop the management plan and monitoring programme for the site. He has considerable experience in CEPA issues through his work at the Mai Po Marshes Wildlife Education Centre and his involvement in the establishment of Wetland Link International-Asia in 2005, a network that has been promoting greater communication and cooperation among wetland centres across Asia. Lew holds a MSc degree in Ecology from Aberdeen University in Scotland and a Ph.D. from Hong Kong University, Department of Zoology, and he joined the Secretariat in 2008.

In an extraordinary lecture, arranged on an off-pattern Monday evening, April 28<sup>th</sup>, when our speaker was available during an official one-week visit to the UAE, Dr. Lew Young gave us a very informative and timely presentation entitled *The Ramsar Convention and the*

*Conservation of Wetlands.* Wetlands are one of the world's most important types of ecosystem, providing multiple benefits for people and the environment. This presentation discussed the role of the Ramsar Convention in the conservation and wise use of wetlands around the world and in particular, the UAE. As reported above (p 2), it was also announced that evening that a fourth Ramsar site has now been named in the UAE: the Al Wathba Wetland Reserve, to which several trips have been led this season and more will undoubtedly be arranged next season.

*NB: A copy of Dr Young's PowerPoint presentation is available on request from the Editor. –Ed.*



**Alberto Gonzalez** (not shown above!), originally from Spain, first travelled to the UK at the age of 22 to realize his dream of working with birds of prey in the British Falcon Center of Derek Stotton. That was the beginning of more than 17 years of experience in the handling and training, as well as in the socialization, rehabilitation and conservation of these animals. He later worked with Dr. Mike Person, Canada, a falconer and veterinary specialist in the conservation of birds of prey. Dr. Person is a member of the team that recovered and reintroduced the peregrine falcon to Canada. Returning to Spain, Alberto continued to work with birds of prey, especially at the Horus Gyrfalcon Breeding Center in Spain. Now at the Falcon Research Center in Al Ain, he dedicates his spare time to the rehabilitation and recuperation and later release of birds of prey that come from illegal commerce. Alberto is a member of the Ornithology Spanish Association, the International Avian Trainers Association and the Spanish Wildlife Photography Association.

Alberto's presentation, *Falcons and Arabs*, covered the ways in which the use of falcons for hunting shaped Bedouin culture, perhaps as much as did their domestication of camels. Examining the history of the Arab world, it was shown that the Caliphs made lavish hunting trips using falcons, which were actually comparatively more expensive than the ones made by modern sheikhs—one example of the high monetary value placed on falcons, reflecting their value in society at large in this part of the world. This talk then focused in on the history of falcon captivity in the Emirates, detailing the relatively brutal techniques used for accelerated training of falcons, where their assistance with hunting was originally essential to Bedouin survival.

## Upcoming Speaker



**Dr. Sâlim Javed** is currently Manager, Terrestrial Assessment and Conservation in the Biodiversity Management Sector at the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD). He also oversees the Bird Programme at the Agency which he set up in 2002. Salim has nearly 20 years of experience of working with government and non-governmental organizations in a variety of capacities, including research activities, project development, and management. Salim has a PhD in Wildlife Sciences from Aligarh Muslim University, and he has published more than 30 scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals, besides many short papers and popular articles, and has authored and co-authored three books. Before joining EAD, Salim was a faculty member for eight years at the Department of Wildlife Sciences, Aligarh University in India, where he taught and guided PhD students.

Dr. Javed is on the Executive Committee of the IUCN's PQF Specialists, a Leadership for Environment & Development (LEAD) fellow and the UAE representative for the Argos Programme. He was the first Indian biologist to undertake satellite tracking of cranes and geese in India, and his work on Bar-headed Goose led BBC to fund another project for their documentary 'Wild Goose Chase' as part of the "Incredible Journey" series. Since joining EAD in 2001, Salim has successfully tracked many important species from the UAE.

On 21 May, 2013, Dr. Javed will give us a presentation entitled *Satellite Tracking Migratory Birds: Challenges & Opportunities for Species Conservation*. Migration is a highly fascinating annual event, and bird migration in particular—spanning thousands of kilometers in annual journeys, some of which are even non-stop—is truly spectacular. The advent of satellite telemetry technology has made it possible to track long distance bird migration with relative ease and higher accuracy; however, recent advancements in the technology have made it possible to track even songbirds.














The Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi started the programme to track Greater Flamingos in 2005 to understand movement and migration patterns of the species and establish the origin of the flamingos wintering in the UAE. The programme since then has grown significantly and covers several other species of waterbirds and migratory raptors, making it one of the largest such initiatives in the region. It has provided

interesting and useful information on migration, habitat use and movement patterns of the species tracked. Information obtained from some of species, tracked for the very first time anywhere in the world, is novel and has significant implications for conservation of species, both locally and at the global level.

*The Editor thanks the above speakers for providing autobiographical information & photos for Focus.*

## Corporate Sponsors of the ENHG - 2013

These companies are supporting the ENHG activities in the region. We hope you as ENHG members will in turn support these companies whenever you can. Click on the links below for information about the sponsors.

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<a href="#">Bin Moosa &amp; Daly</a>	
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<a href="#">Dome International L.L.C.</a>	
<a href="#">Dolphin Energy</a>	
<a href="#">Fugro Survey (Middle East) Ltd.</a>	
<a href="#">Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund</a>	
<a href="#">Nautica Environmental Associates L.L.C.</a>	
<a href="#">Partex Oil and Gas</a>	
<a href="#">Shell</a>	
<a href="#">Readymix Abu Dhabi Limited L.L.C.</a> (Click on link & scroll down)	
<a href="#">URS</a>	

## In the Local News Media

The National, January 7: [Preserving the wonders of UAE's Wadi Wurayah](#)

The National, April 9: [Academic unearths new lead to fabled Babylon gardens](#)

## In the Local News Media, Continued

The National, April 14: [Abu Dhabi unveils new facility to tackle environmental disasters](#)

The National, April 30: [UAE's Al Wathba recognised as one of the world's best conserved wetlands](#)

The National, May 1: [Destructive sandstorms in Middle East topic of UN task force](#)

The National, May 2: [Clean-up kicks off care for Wadi Wurayah](#)

Gulf News, May 2: [Green Abu Dhabi 2013 will keep mangroves clean](#)

The National, May 3: [Wetlands initiative would save birdlife in the UAE, conservation official says](#)

The National, May 8: [Sharjah's ecotourism plan for island home of rare wildlife](#)

The National May 8: [Website for sustainable life choices](#)

The National May 12: [The right bugs grow better beans](#)

Gulf News May 11: [420 bird species found in Abu Dhabi](#)

## ITEMS ON SALE

### AT THE ENHG BOOK STALL

*All prices are in dirhams.*

- **NEW:** Archaeology of the United Arab Emirates, 120
- 2013 Calendar – *Birds of Oman*, 30
- Abu Dhabi 8 Million Years Ago, 15
- Birds of the UAE- - A guide to common and important species, 60 (out of stock at present)
- Butterflies of Saudi Arabia & its neighbours, 90
- Common Birds in Oman, 2nd ed, 120
- Emirates Bird Report, 20
- **NEW** Emirates Heritage ... Discoveries in the Emirates, tbc
- Exploring Oman, 120
- Focus on Fujairah: Through Minie's lens 1964-2001, 150
- Jebel Hafit – A Natural History, 100
- **SOON** On the folklore and oral history of the United Arab Emirates and Arab Gulf countries,
- Sandgrouse - Checklist of the birds of the United Arab Emirates, 25
- Sulphur, Camels and Gunpowder, 100
- Tribulus, our annual Journal, see for details

## Websites of General Interest

Emirates Natural History Group – Al Ain (Archives: newsletters of 3 NHGs, *Tribulus*): <http://www.enhg.org>

Dubai Natural History Group: <http://dnhg.org>

Qatar Natural History Group: <http://www.qnhg.org>

Historical Association of Oman: <http://www.hao.org.om/>

Tommy Pedersen's UAE Birding / UAE Nature Forum: <http://www.uaebirding.com>

Hanne & Jens Eriksen's website: [www.BirdsOman.com](http://www.BirdsOman.com)

Roy & Liz's website: [www.chirri2000.com](http://www.chirri2000.com)

Emirates Soc. of Geoscience: <http://www.esg-uae.org>

Emirates Marine Environmental Group: [www.emeg.ae](http://www.emeg.ae)

Emirates Diving Association: <http://www.emiratesdiving.com/index.php>

Emirates Wildlife Society – World Wildlife Fund: [http://www.panda.org/who\\_we\\_are/wwf\\_offices/united\\_arab\\_emirates/](http://www.panda.org/who_we_are/wwf_offices/united_arab_emirates/)

Environment Agency Abu Dhabi: <http://www.ead.ae/en>

UAE Environmental Atlas (Sign up for notice of release): <http://www.environmentalatlas.ae/>

Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority <http://www.adach.ae/en/> (Still using ADACH website)

UAE archaeology website: <http://www.adias-uae.com>

Noukhada Adventure Co.: <http://noukhada.ae>

NYUAD Events Calendar: <http://nyuad.nyu.edu/news.events/events.ad.html>

Khalifa University Events Calendar: <http://www.kustar.ac.ae/campus/dss/schedules/default.aspx>

Dubai Astronomy Group: <http://www.dubaiastromy.com>

Sharjah Museums: <http://www.sharjahmuseums.ae>

The Rock Art of the Hajar Mountains: [http://www.bradshawfoundation.com/uae/hajar\\_mountains/index.php](http://www.bradshawfoundation.com/uae/hajar_mountains/index.php)

Arabian Wildlife: <http://www.arabianwildlife.com>

Wildlife Middle East News: <http://www.wmenews.com>

Zoology in the Middle East (Peer-reviewed ISI Journal): <http://www.kasperek-verlag.de/ZME-allgem.htm>

Sharkwatch Arabia: <http://www.sharkwatcharabia.com>

Foundation for the Protection of the Arabian Leopard in Yemen: <http://www.yemenileopard.org>

Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund: <http://www.mbzspeciesconservation.org/>

EDGE: Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered: <http://www.edgeofexistence.org>

Protected Planet: IUCN & UNEP-WCMC Database: <http://www.protectedplanet.net>

Encyclopedia of Life: <http://eol.org/>

ARKive Images of Life on Earth: <http://www.arkive.org>  
Jewels of the UAE: <http://www.arkive.org/uae/en/>

NHBS Environment Bookstore: <http://www.nhbs.com/>

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## Lectures

**Meeting Venue:**  
**Abu Dhabi Women's College, City Campus**  
**Emirates Hall**

April 9<sup>th</sup>  
The Mystery of the Hanging Garden of Babylon: An Elusive World Wonder Traced  
**Dr. Stephanie Dalley**

April 16<sup>th</sup>  
A Journey through the Lost Cities of the Ancient Silk Road  
**Denis Cheng**

**Extraordinary Lecture:**  
April 29<sup>th</sup>  
Ramsar Convention & the Conservation of Wetlands  
**Dr. Lew Young**

May 7<sup>th</sup>  
Annual General Meeting  
**Dr. Andrew Bean & Rex Sartain**  
Falcons and Arabs  
**Alberto Gonzalez**

May 21<sup>st</sup> **7:30 PM**  
Satellite Tracking Migratory Birds—Challenges & Opportunities for Species Conservation  
**Dr. Salim Javed**

## Field Trips

April 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>  
Dalma Island Camping  
**Ian Townson & Keith Taylor**

April 20<sup>th</sup> Al Wathba Lakes Birding  
**Oscar Campbell & Keith Taylor**

May 3<sup>rd</sup>  
EAD Baseline Survey Training for ENHG-AD & AA at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve  
**Pritpal Sorae & EAD team**

May 11<sup>th</sup>  
Musaffah Channel Birding Boat Trip  
**Capt Maarten Verhage & Ian Townson**

## ENHG-AD Research & Conservation Fund Grant Application Information

For background on this fund, see [Dec 2009 Focus](#), p5.

For further enquiries and for grant application guidelines and application form, contact ENHG Deputy Chairman Keith Taylor at [kjtaylor13@yahoo.com](mailto:kjtaylor13@yahoo.com).

NB: These documents are posted in the Files section of the AUHENHG YahooGroup (see address below).

## ENHG Equipment for Members' Use

The following ENHG equipment is available for members' use during field trips or on request:

- Starter camping set: 2 new sleeping bags & maps, medium-sized cool box, old Coleman '5-man' tent
- GPS unit – GARMIN GPSMAP 60CSx
- First-Aid Kit
- Birding Telescope
- Two satellite phones, taken on camping trips.  
Phone numbers: No. 1: 008821644400956  
No. 2: 008821644400965

Enquiries: Keith Taylor, [kjtaylor13@yahoo.com](mailto:kjtaylor13@yahoo.com)

- Celestron NexStar telescope (on field trips only)
  - Sky Scout astronomical object locator/identifier
- Enquiries: Denis Cheng, [spacemandc@gmail.com](mailto:spacemandc@gmail.com).

## Marine Life Rescue Contact Info.

**In Abu Dhabi:**

EAD Hotline for reporting environmental emergencies including pollution and injured wildlife: 8009990. Email: [envirocomplaint@ead.ae](mailto:envirocomplaint@ead.ae)

EAD Emergency response manager: Mr. Abdul Rahman. Mob: 0506674171 (contactable 24 hours/day)

EAD contact for sea turtles, dugongs and dolphins: Dr. Himansu Das, Biodiversity Management Sector. Tel: 26934654; Mob: 0504465125; Email: [hsdas@ead.ae](mailto:hsdas@ead.ae)

**In Dubai:**

Emirates Marine Environment Group (EMEG) (Tel: 043630581/Fax:043630460; Email: [info@emeg.ae](mailto:info@emeg.ae))

Dubai Municipality: Main number: 800900. Marine Environment & Sanctuaries Unit (Tel: +9714 606 6818, Fax +9714 703 3532), Email: [marabdulla@dm.gov.ae](mailto:marabdulla@dm.gov.ae).

Dubai Turtle Rehabilitation Centre at the Burj al Arab Aquarium. Tel: 043017198. 24-hour email contact, Attn. Mr Warren Baverstock, Manager of Operations, BAA Aquarium: [warren.baverstock@jumeirah.com](mailto:warren.baverstock@jumeirah.com)  
To post Facebook message triggering an after-hours SMS alert: [www.facebook.com/turtle.rehabilitation](http://www.facebook.com/turtle.rehabilitation)

## Newsletter Details

Please send newsletter contributions to:  
[newsletter.abudhabi@enhg.org](mailto:newsletter.abudhabi@enhg.org)

## Members' Items for sale

Please send small ads to:  
[newsletter.abudhabi@enhg.org](mailto:newsletter.abudhabi@enhg.org)

## Postal Address

ENHG c/o Environment Agency -  
Abu Dhabi, PO Box 45553, Abu Dhabi

## Yahoo Groups website

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/AUHENHG>  
(Click Join button to sign up for ENHG info.)