

# focus



Abu Dhabi, February 2011  
Vol 35 (2)



Emirates Natural History Group

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

## EDITORIAL

The Inter-Emirates Weekend is coming up this weekend, 17-19, at the Tilal Liwa Hotel, which is fully booked, though (windy) camping and alternative accommodation are still possible. Bookings for the Friday dinner can still be made till 7pm Feb 16<sup>th</sup>. See IEW programme on p 6. We hope you can join us on this fun annual get-together.

The weekend following the IEW, we offer a winter mountain-climbing/camping trip to Jebel Ghawil in Oman. A week later, a day trip to Khor Kalba (for a chance at spotting an elusive kingfisher—see cover) is in the works; more camping trips will follow.

The update on p. 3 shows the grant awarded in 2010 for the survey of Collared Kingfishers in Khor Kalba in action. The write-up on pp 5-6 details the successful outcome of our 2009 grant for the training of Yemeni leopard researchers. We wish both teams all the best in their long-range conservation efforts!

Committee news: We warmly welcome Monika Laabs-Meulner as our new Lecture Coordinator and Avra Theophanous as our Book Sales Coordinator. Eila, our Treasurer for the past three years, is stepping down due to other commitments, but she's of course leaving our accounts in good shape for our annual audit. We thank her for a job well done—as well as for her assistance at the membership table. We would appreciate hearing from anyone who can serve as ENHG Treasurer.

A gentle reminder: Subscriptions for the ENHG run for the calendar year. If you haven't got around to renewing your membership, please do as soon as possible. At still only AED100, this is a great value!

Finally, the ENHG has recently granted two lifetime membership certificates, the texts of which follow, to long-serving, well-deserving members.

*Keith Taylor*

## ENHG Lifetime Membership Awards

8 February 2011:

The Committee and membership of the Emirates Natural History Group, Abu Dhabi, are pleased to present Peter Hellyer with lifetime membership of the Group, in recognition of his generous personal and professional contributions over many years.

Peter has had a very long association with the ENHG, having joined in the late 1970s, shortly after the ENHG was founded. He served as the Chairman of the ENHG from 1989 to 1992. In 1993, Peter Hellyer was the recipient of the Jashanmal Award, which predated the Sheikh Mubarak bin Mohamed Award. In 2004, Peter also received the Sheikh Mubarak bin Mohamed Award, for support for and popularization of archaeology in the UAE. Peter founded the Abu Dhabi Islands Archaeological Survey, responsible for some truly seminal archaeological studies. Peter has also organised numerous archaeology conferences, bringing together the diverse archaeological teams working in the UAE under one roof.

Peter has also made a lasting and invaluable contribution to the ENHG in his capacity of as the

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## FRONT COVER PICTURE

*Photograph: Collared Kingfisher in Khor Kalba Mangroves*

*Photographer: Ahmed Al Ali*

## This month's contributors

*Ahmed Al Ali, Oscar Campbell, Drew Gardner, Christoph Herzog, Ada Natoli, David Stanton, Simon Strickland, Keith Taylor*

## ENHG Membership Information

Annual membership in the Abu Dhabi chapter of the ENHG is 100 Dhs – for both individual and family membership. A 2011 membership form may be obtained from the Membership Sec. or Asst. at the next meeting or by clicking [here](#).

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 scientific journal, *Tribulus*. Volume 19 is coming soon—release date TBA.

founder and editor of *Tribulus*, the only peer-reviewed natural history journal on the Arabian Peninsula, which is about to publish its 19<sup>th</sup> volume.

Peter's service to the ENHG committee continues, in the role of aldermanic adviser to the committee and organiser of annual ENHG Awards presentations by our Patron, Sheikh Nahayan bin Mubarak.

On behalf of the countless people whose lives have been informed and inspired by your work, thank you, Peter Hellyer.

**Drew Gardner (Chairman)  
and Keith Taylor (Deputy Chairman)**

4 January 2011:

The Committee and membership of the Emirates Natural History Group, Abu Dhabi, are pleased to present Hanne and Jens Eriksen with lifetime membership of the Group,

in recognition of their very generous contributions of time, enthusiasm and expertise over many years.

Hanne and Jens have been promoting SE Arabian Natural History and especially birds through their world-renowned photography and publications for the last 20 years or so. Starting in Oman, where much of their output has been based, they have always maintained strong links with the UAE, and they began giving slide shows to all three chapters of the ENHG long before making the move from Muscat to Abu Dhabi.

Hanne and Jens have always freely shared their expertise in wildlife photography and bird identification with members of this group. During their five and a half years of residence in the UAE, Hanne and Jens Eriksen have been familiar faces at ENHG meetings, running the book table cheerfully and efficiently, and giving us one or two truly memorable, entertaining and informative presentations per year. In 2009, Hanne and Jens were the well-deserved recipients of the Bish Brown Award.

The Eriksens' bird books and bird calendars have graced our book table and enhanced our appreciation of birdlife in this region. Their photographic contributions have graced many issues of *Focus*. Their BirdsOman website, referenced in *Focus*, offers a continued update of Oman bird sightings as well as an excellent gallery of birds and other wildlife from this region and around the world.

On behalf of the countless people whose lives have been informed and inspired by your work, thank you, Hanne and Jens Eriksen.

*Drew Gardner, Chairman*

## Kalba Collared Kingfisher Survey: Feb. 2011 Update

The Kalba Collared Kingfisher survey, supported by ENHG with a generous grant, began in October 2010 and has been ongoing with two surveys completed to date. These have been very much trial runs for the complete survey, due at the end of April, but, as such, have allowed us to perfect our field technique and get to know the survey area. This means we are now hopeful of full and effective coverage and should locate the vast majority of birds present in the area. Field work so far has included lots of wading the muddy channels, mostly up to our knees but on one occasion up to our necks,



*Photo: Ahmed Al Ali*

some paddling in a kayak, lots of dragging the kayak through a few inches of water (as the best time for

locating birds, low tide, is not the optimum time for paddling!) and ages spent scanning exposed perches and mudflats for the kingfishers. For such colourful and, in some of the parts of their range, noisy birds, the Kalba Collared Kingfishers are remarkably unobtrusive and quiet; we have rarely heard them calling and a number have been logged as a merest turquoise flash across a quiet backwater.

On the most recent survey day, at the end of January, we were fortunate with cool, fresh and sunny conditions (we are not expecting those in April!). Almost complete coverage resulted in 27-29 Collared Kingfishers being found. This must be one of the highest counts made in recent years but is still a long way short of the 44-55 pairs recorded in the only previous full survey (in 1995). It is likely we missed some (locating birds, if any are present, in the low, nearly impenetrable, dense mangrove patches near the Omani border is still proving difficult) but it seems unlikely that we will get significantly closer to the 1995 figure. One tactic we tried, tape-luring, was rather unsuccessful, but may produce more results when birds become more territorial as they start to nest.

Lots of scratched feet, soggy, salty T-shirts that never smell quite the same again and sandals covered in black sulphurous mud (with at least one pair abandoned so far) has been a small price to pay for some marvellous views of these spectacular birds. We have also seen lots of other waders and herons at close range and fully enjoyed submersing ourselves in the only true forest habitat in the UAE.

*Ahmed al Ali, Oscar Campbell and Neil Tovey*

## Al Wathba Lakes Bird List: Jan. 2011

On 10<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2011, 36 people went on an afternoon birdwatching trip to Al Wathba lakes, beside the Abu Dhabi Sewage Treatment plant on the Al Ain Truck Road not far from Musaffah. This trip was organised by Excursion Secretary Andrew Bean and led by Oscar Campbell, who secured permission for our group to enter this fenced-off and restricted reserve, consisting of several treated wastewater outflow ponds of varying salinity, which serve as feeding grounds for many species of wild breeding and migratory birds—some of them in very large numbers. Here is a list of most of the birds spotted on that occasion, arranged in their order of appearance in the field guide referred to below:

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*  
 Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*  
 Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*  
 Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus (ruber)*  
 Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*  
 Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*  
 Teal *Anas crecca*  
 Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*  
 Shoveler *Anas clypeata*  
 Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*  
 Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*  
 Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*  
 Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*  
 Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*  
 Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus* [Red-wattled Plover]

White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus* [White-tailed Plover]  
 Little Stint *Calidris minuta*  
 Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*  
 Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*  
 Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*  
 Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*  
 Common Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*  
 Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*  
 Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis* [Palm Dove]  
 Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis* [Little Green Bee-eater]  
 Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*  
 Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*  
 Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*  
 Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*  
 White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*  
 White-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis* [White-cheeked Bulbul *P. leucogenys*]  
 Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*  
 Graceful Prinia *Prinia gracilis*  
 Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus* (heard only)  
 House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Reference: *The Birds of the Middle East 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.*

On 16<sup>th</sup> January 2011 Oscar Campbell wrote in, "We counted the whole lake and water treatment plant yesterday as part of the IW Census and got to nearly 8,000 birds, including 2,900 flamingos!" -Ed.

**Simon Strickland / Keith Taylor**

## Winter Trip to Al Hoota, in Oman

On Jan 21-22, 35 members of all three NHGs—in a sort of IEW preview—gathered at Al Hoota Rest House, on the flank of Jebel Shams, for a candle-lit wintry weather experience—truly remarkable for this part of the world.



In the fog and rain at Al Hoota Rest House

Although the main draw, Al Hoota Cave, was unluckily closed that weekend due to rain-caused underground flooding, many of us enjoyed the cave museum, with its interactive presentations of geological processes. Other activities included an impromptu guided tour of the ancient stone village and plantation of Misfat A'Abriyeen and a ridge walk with a magnificent post-fog view. And on Friday, after a curious song and dance performance by a group of amateurs brought in when the professional troupe had to call it off, the elderly Omani hotel owner ended the evening with a deeply heart-felt traditional song (a truly authentic cultural experience!).



From our afternoon ridge walk, a panorama – from the left: Jebel Shams, Wadi al Sahtan, and Wadi Bani Awf and at the center the charming village Balad Sayt, known as the Petra of the Hajar mountains as it can be approached on foot by walking through a deep narrow canyon: "Snake Canyon" (You can see it in the pic.)



Our guide Abu Ali talking to the kids at Misfat A'Abriyeen

On Saturday, we all found our way home stopping off at various attractions in this part of Oman. A report of one small adventure on a homeward journey follows (partly making up, it seems, for the missed cave trip.)

**Keith Taylor**

**All photographs and captions by Ada Natoli**

## Water and the Wadi

A story with 'footstuff'

While going home from the Al Hoota trip (with no Al Hoota at all being in the trip) we opted for the tourist guide version and went visiting Tanuf first. It was a small convoy of 3 cars with a lot of females and 1 lost male.

Tanuf old town is built from mud bricks and had been given up in 1950 after some war (There is a new Tanuf). Splendid and worth its own article (any volunteers?).

Behind that old town is a small cliff of some 10 m, which directs to a wadi coming from the mountains. Due to the rainfall the wadi started turning into a small river.

This was exciting to the Omanis. They gathered, walked through the wadi and had picnics. Beside that wadi was an over-flooded street, and they even came in taxis only to pass the 100 m of flooded street (proof by photo). We took off our shoes (proof by photo).



This was exciting to the Omanis. They waved and we had a lot of nice talks. Slowly but steadily we traversed the street (unfortunately not all of the convoy-women were brave enough to do so barefoot – they took the car !?) On the other side we found a dam and an empty (?) basin. On our way back Eila stopped a pick-up truck and we entered just before they realised what was going on.



This was exciting to the Omanis. They now had two barefoot westerners on their truck (proof by photo). Crossing the water was fun; we made him stop beside our shoes. This was ... ääh think you know that now.

We had to go home then – finished playing, but was great fun!

**Christoph Herzog**

*Photographs by the author*

## Oman Trains Yemeni Conservationists in Leopard Research

*The article reprinted below describes the gratifying success of the Yemeni field leopard researcher training programme partially funded by an ENHG Research & Conservation Fund grant awarded in 2009. This article originally appeared in the Wildlife Middle East News WME News Vol 5 Issue 3—accessible online at [www.wmenews.com](http://www.wmenews.com). It is reprinted by permission of the authors as well of the editors of WME News. -Ed.*

In a region that faces numerous conservation challenges, there is perhaps no issue quite as pressing or problematic as the preservation of the Arabian leopard. As a result of relentless persecution and several other factors, the most powerful predator in the peninsula has become one of the rarest mammals on Earth. Some experts estimate the population to number fewer than 100. Of these, approximately 50 range the Jebel Samhan Nature Reserve and Jebels Qara and Qammar in Dhofar, Oman. The other key state for the survival of Arabian leopards in the wild is presumed to be Yemen where an unknown number are believed to exist at several sites. While the conservation of Arabian leopards in the Sultanate of Oman is effectively coordinated by the Diwan of the Royal Court, in Yemen leopard conservation is spearheaded by an NGO, the Foundation for the Protection of the Arabian Leopard in Yemen (FPALY). In an historic event that laid the foundation for future cooperation between the two nations, the Diwan's Office of the Conservation of the Environment recently hosted a team of seven FPALY trainees for a week of leopard field research training.

Engineer Salah Said Al-Mahthori, a Senior Wildlife Biologist with the Arabian Oryx Project and Senior Wildlife Ranger Mr. Khalifa Mohammed Al-Harsausi supervised the training. The program, which was designed by Hadi and Khaled Al-Hikmani of the Arabian Leopard Survey, consisted of two days each on Jebels Samhan, Qara, and Qammar. Khaled Al-Hikmani led the training. The five Yemeni trainees included Dr. Mohamed Al-Doais, Ibrahim Wada'i, Nasser Aswot, Yousuf Mohageb, and Awad Al-Akbary. Also participating were Swiss graduate student Malini Pittet and FPALY Executive Director David Stanton.

The original concept behind the training was to partially address the capacity gap that exists in Yemen. As one of two nations with a potentially viable wild leopard population, Yemen is challenged by its lack of qualified field researchers. Until now, leopard research in Yemen has been sporadic and opportunistic and executed by volunteers with little field experience. As a result of the training, Yemen now has a cohort of five Yemenis who have first-hand experience in tracking leopards and in identifying and assessing leopard sign such as scats and scrapes, and who have trekked extensively through prime leopard habitat. The group received further training in the placement and monitoring of trail cameras for optimal results.

Initial support for the mission in the form of a \$3,000 grant to cover travel expenses and other costs was awarded by the Abu Dhabi Chapter of the Emirates Natural History Group. The Griffin Group provided a grant of \$2,240 to cover additional expenses and a project vehicle was provided by the National Tobacco and Matches Company. Finally, the mission was generously hosted within Oman by the Diwan of the Royal Court of the Sultanate under the direction of His Excellency Dr. Sheikh Talib Hilal Al-Hosni, Secretary General of the Diwan.

Hadi and Khaled designed an exceptional programme. Spending the first two nights on Jebel Samhan, the team hiked to a remote ledge where it saw leopard scrapes, scats, and tracks. Further along the ledge Khaled had

installed a trail camera, which in addition to pictures of Nubian Ibex and Rock Hyrax, had recorded two images of an Arabian leopard.

The next two nights were spent on Jebel Salalah (aka Jebel Qara) where Khaled assured the team that it would find much more recent sign. Hiking down the near vertical wadi slope, the trainees accessed a ledge covered in a thick layer of gray dust where it found tracks so fresh that the texture of the leather on the pugmarks could clearly be seen. Here, Khaled's cameras had recorded Porcupine, Blanford's Fox, and a healthy male leopard.

The team spent its final night on Jebel Qammar near the Yemen border where it found more signs, and another trail camera which had recorded yet more pictures of leopards. The difference between this site and the previous two visited was that on Jebel Qammar the camera was placed an easy five minute walk from the plateau, not far from human habitations. It seems Arabian leopards, like their African and Indian cousins, can live in close proximity to humans.



Group Portrait. Standing L to R: Tom Evans, Awadh Al-Akbary, Yousuf Mohageb, Darko Mocičnikar, Kevin Rushby, David Stanton, Ibrahim Wada'i, Salah Al-Mahthori, Khaled Al-Hikmani. Kneeling L to R: Nasser Aswot, Khalifa Al-Harsausi, Mohamed Al-Doais, Fadhil Al-Eryani, Malini Pittet

Photo: David Stanton

Saying 'goodbye' to its Omani hosts was not easy for the team; strong bonds can develop during a week in the field. More important than these bonds, however, is the link that has now been established between the key stakeholders for the conservation of Arabian Leopards in Oman and Yemen. Plans for a reciprocal visit in the spring are already being made, and the possibility of future annual trainings was enthusiastically discussed. Since 1997, Oman's Arabian Leopard Survey has been at the forefront of the in-situ conservation of Arabian leopards. For almost a year, FPALY has persevered in its struggle to create a credible leopard conservation programme in Yemen. It will be years, if ever, before the Yemeni effort catches up with that in Oman. However, a precedent has been set and a seed for future cooperation planted. We need now only water it and see what grows.

For more information about FPALY (Foundation for the Protection of the Arabian Leopard in Yemen), to join the "Friends of the Arabian Leopard" newsgroup, or to make a contribution, please contact the Executive Director, David Stanton, at P.O. Box 7069, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen, [david@yemenileopard.org](mailto:david@yemenileopard.org).

David B. Stanton

Also see 1st news article link in panel on the right. –Ed.

## Inter-Emirates Weekend Programme

IEW 2011 is this weekend: 17-19 Feb. Check for the final announcement, now in your inbox. Programme table & trip details are posted on [ENHG.org](http://ENHG.org). Enquiries on camping options: Andrew: [rexabeau@emirates.net.ae](mailto:rexabeau@emirates.net.ae).

### Thursday

2.00pm: Tilal Liwa Hotel check-in  
5.00pm: IEW Registration opens: Mezaira'a Room  
7.00pm: Pre-booked WRDC sponsored buffet: "  
8.30pm: Natural History Quiz – open to all: "  
10.00m: Arthropod Light-trapping: behind hotel  
10.00pm: Stargazing: behind hotel

**Friday Morn & Aft:** Arthropod day-trapping workshop

### Friday - Full Day-Trip Options

8.00-6.30: Sila'a: geology & birding  
8.30-6.00: Intro to West Liwa: village, fish farm, dunes  
8.30-5.00: Mirfa: birding, mangrove & beach exploration

### Friday Evening

7:30pm: \*Buffet dinner in hotel restaurant / on terrace  
\*Bookings can be made till **Feb 16<sup>th</sup>**: **+971 50 4178286**

9:00pm: Evening programme in Mezaira'a Room  
- Announcements: Winners of 2010 Sheikh Mubarak bin Mohammed Prize for Natural History & the Bish Brown Award and winners of IEW 2011 photo competition.  
- Guest speaker: Mike Jennings, speaking on *Atlas of Breeding Birds of Arabia* project.

### Saturday: Morning Workshops

8.30am-10.00am: Macro photography with found objects  
9.00am-10.30am: Arthropod identification & curation

**Saturday Mid-day:** 10.30-1.30: Birding at Mirfa causeway

### Saturday Return Journey Options:

- East Liwa: Fort, Qasr al Sarab, dunes & dew forest  
- Coast Route: Outcropping, sabkha, flamingos  
- Masdar City visit

### Instructions for IEW 2011 photo competition:

Max. 2 photos per category, taken in UAE/Oman.  
Categories: Flora, Fauna, Scapes, Culture & Heritage.  
Min. size: 120 x 185mm; must be labelled on back:  
name, title, place & date taken. Submissions for Adults and Children 12 & under from 17 Feb up to 5pm 18 Feb.

## In the Local News Media

Yemen Today, Nov. 29 2010: [Finding the footprints of a phantom](#)

Gulf News, Dec. 17: [Dive and discover life underwater](#)

The National, Jan. 21: [Masdar City's PRT, a test drive for future of transport](#)

The National, Jan. 21: [Plant seeds could produce jet fuel](#)

The National, Jan. 29: [Indigenous grasses to reduce water waste](#)

Gulf News, Jan. 31: [Study reveals world-class coral reef sites in Musandam](#)

The National, Feb. 1: [Sewage plant to water new Al Wathba forest](#)

The National, Feb. 2: [Save the sharks, save the reefs](#)

Gulf News, Feb. 5: [Green thumb turns into a delicious passion](#)

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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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**Ultra Dascam (Al Shaheen)**



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**WSP Group**



**ITEMS ON SALE**

**AT THE ENHG BOOK STALL**

*All prices are in dirhams.*

- Arabian Wildlife Encyclopedia, 120.
- The Emirates – A Natural History, 350. *The first complete referencing guide to the wildlife of the UAE. 580 colour photos.*
- Jebel Hafit – A Natural History, 100. *An attractive, encyclopaedic presentation of the natural resources of this local landmark. (Free copies available to schools. Ask Chairman.)*
- Terrestrial Environment of Abu Dhabi Emirate, 240.
- Marine Environment and Resources of Abu Dhabi, 140.
- Wild about Reptiles, 40.
- Snakes of Arabia, 50.
- Arthropod Fauna of the UAE, Vol 1, 110.
- Arthropod Fauna of the UAE, Vol 2, 110.
- Breeding Birds of the United Arab Emirates, 100
- Abu Dhabi Bird checklist, 10.
- Emirates Bird Report, 20.
- Birdwatching guide to Oman, 2nd edition, 100. *Guide to bird watching spots in Oman.*
- Common Birds in Oman, 2nd ed, 120.
- Comprehensive Guide to the Wildflowers of the UAE, 100.
- Butterflies of Saudi Arabia & its neighbours, 90.
- Trucial States, 120.
- Oman 1965, 120.
- Natural History of Oman, 50.
- Feast of Dates, 100.
- On-road in the UAE, 50.
- UAE in Focus, 100.
- Sir Bani Yas, 100.
- Musandam, 90.
- Abu Dhabi 8 million years ago, 15.
- Discovering Qatar, 120.
- A Field Guide to the Geology of Oman, 75. **NEW**

## Committee Members

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**Required: A new Treasurer to keep the ENHG's books. Can you do this?**

## Lectures

**Venue: HCT / Abu Dhabi Men's College**

Press CTRL+click [here](#) to view map/directions.  
8<sup>th</sup> Feb.

An Introduction to the History of Abu Dhabi: A quick saunter through the last 200 million years

**Peter Hellyer**

15<sup>th</sup> Feb. **8:00 PM**  
**(ADMC Presentation Rm. upstairs from Aud)**

Wildlife and Birds of Oman: an evening of films with the cameraman and director Hamed al Wardi

**Hamed al Wardi**

1<sup>st</sup> March **7:30 PM**  
World Bird Migration:

Migratory Birds in Peril  
**Steve James**

## Field Trips

8<sup>th</sup> Jan.  
Afternoon Birdwatching Al Wathba lakes

**Andrew Bean/Oscar Campbell**

21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> Jan.  
Al Hoota Rest House, above Al Hamra, Oman  
**Andrew Bean**

17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Feb.  
InterEmirates Weekend Tilal Liwa hotel (See programme on p 6.)  
**Hosts: ENHG-AD**

25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> Feb.  
Camping Trip / Hike up Jebel Ghawil  
**Graeme Hornby**

4<sup>th</sup> March  
Tentative Day Trip to Khor Kalba  
**Feng Wen**

## Websites of General Interest

ENHG-AA Website (Archives: 3 newsletters, Tribulus):  
<http://www.enhg.org>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sharjah Museums sites (Check out the virtual tours!):  
<http://www.sharjahmuseums.ae>

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

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

ARKive: Images of Life on Earth:  
<http://www.arkive.org>

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

For background on this fund, see **Dec 2009 Focus**, p5.

For research & grant application guidelines, click [here](#).

For grant application form, click [here](#).

For further enquiries, contact ENHG Chairman Drew Gardner, at [drew.gardner@zu.ac.ae](mailto:drew.gardner@zu.ac.ae).

## ENHG Equipment for Members' Use

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

- Birding Telescope
  - GPS unit – GARMIN GPSMAP 60CSx
  - First-Aid Kit
  - Sky Scout astronomical object locator/identifier
  - Celestron NexStar telescope (on field trips only)
  - Two satellite phones, taken on camping trips.
- Phone numbers: No. 1: 00882 1644400956  
No. 2: 00882 1644400965

Enquiries: Andrew Bean, [rexabean@emirates.net.ae](mailto:rexabean@emirates.net.ae)

## Newsletter Details

Newsletter contributions to:  
[newsletter@chirri2000.com](mailto:newsletter@chirri2000.com)

## Members' Items for sale

Please send small ads to:  
[newsletter@chirri2000.com](mailto:newsletter@chirri2000.com)

## 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.)