

# focus

Abu Dhabi, June 2011  
Vol 35 (6)



Emirates Natural History Group

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

## EDITORIAL

Welcome to this bumper issue of *focus*—the last of this season before the ENHG's two-month summer recess. We lead off with a report of a recent camping trip to the Oryx Protected Area near Umm al Zamool—a fascinating look at a long-range conservation effort in the UAE, about which we expect to hear more in the coming season. See cover photo & links to two articles on oryx conservation on p. 3. Following this write-up are brief reports & photos of the rest of this season's outings.

On p. 6, we reprint an article from *The National* about the first local success of Sharkwatch Arabia's project, managed by PhD student David Robinson, now tagging whale sharks in the Arabian Gulf, to build a useful database of these little-studied gentle giants. In a Research & Conservation grant, the ENHG has funded the deployment of a tag on a female whale shark in Qatari waters in early June 2011; four months later, the tag will detach, and the data will be analysed. We can probably expect reports on this data in *focus* sometime after October 2011, and later in *Tribulus*, as well.

Contributions are welcomed on p. 7 for IEW 2011 guest speaker Mike Jennings' vital ongoing project, *Atlas of Breeding Birds of Arabia*. Also on p. 8 please note the new panel in *focus* starting with this issue: 'Marine Life Rescue Contact Info.' Lastly, one addition to the Websites of General Interest panel on p. 10 is the address of the brand-new website of recent speaker David Stanton's leopard foundation, and another is a link to Catherine Vogler's blog on her study of marine lakes in Indonesia, sent in by her mother, Atie Vogler, former *focus* Editor (now living in Cyprus). Check them out!

NB: Because of all the above welcome contributions to this newsletter issue, we have postponed publication of the promised answers to the Natural History Quiz #1, 'What Are the Differences?', (which appeared in May 2011 *focus*), until the start of the new season in September. And also in the Sept 2011 issue of *focus* we'll publish a final report on the results of the ENHG-sponsored Kalba Collared Kingfisher Survey.

Breaking news: the ENHG Committee has just approved a second grant to David Stanton, Executive Director of the Foundation for the Protection of the Arabian Leopard in Yemen, which will support the training of two more Yemeni field researchers and the delivery of five leopard conservation workshops designed to build stakeholder commitment in leopard-likely areas in Yemen. Mr. Stanton expects the political situation in Yemen to be stable enough to permit these projects to go ahead quite soon; we await a report on them in the coming season.

And in news of other NHGs, we announce the formation of the new Fujairah Natural History Group, due to kick off in September. We welcome this chapter to the UAE's community of NHGs! We also congratulate the Dubai NHG on their new website (see p. 10).

Finally, we welcome anyone still in town on 21<sup>st</sup> June to our two-part season-ending talk on houbara bustard conservation. (See link to related May 27 article on p. 8.)

Happy summer holidays! We hope you can make it to our first meeting of the new season on Sept, 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Keith Taylor**

## In this issue

- Page 1:** Front cover
- Page 2:** Editorial, Camping Trip to Umm Al Zamool
- Page 3:** Electrical Systems at the Oryx Centre
- Page 4:** Noukhada Bird Island Kayaking Tour, Camping Trip to Wadi Bih
- Page 5:** Bats and Geckos at Qarn Nazwa
- Page 6:** Whale Sharks Tagged in Satellite Tracking Project
- Page 7:** ABBA (Atlas of Breeding Birds of Arabia), Upcoming Speakers
- Page 8:** In the Local News Media, Marine Life Rescue Contact Info.
- Page 9:** Corporate Sponsors, ENHG Bookstall
- Page 10:** Committee Members, Lectures, Field Trips, Websites of General Interest, Equipment for Members' Use, Research & Conservation Fund, Newsletter Details

### FRONT COVER PICTURE

*Photograph:* Oryxes at EAD Reserve near Umm Al Zamool

*Photographer:* May Yoke Taylor

## This month's contributors

Simone Caprodossi, Michael Creamer, Quetzal Creamer-Shorey, Megan Detrie, Gary Feulner, Gordon Higgs, Angie Marles, Ron Priestley, Keith Taylor, May Yoke Taylor

## ENHG Membership Information

Annual membership in the Abu Dhabi chapter of the ENHG is 100 Dhs – for both individual and family membership. NB: 2010 membership is reduced to 50 Dhs from Oct - Dec. See Membership Sec. or Asst. at the next meeting for a membership form.

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 due to be released in Sept 2011. Volume 20 is projected for the start of 2012.

## Camping Trip to Umm Al Zamool

On the weekend of 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> April 2011, at the gracious invitation of the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, Andrew Bean arranged an eye-opening desert camping trip on EAD's Protected Area in Umm Al Zamool, due south of Al Ain, in the SE corner of the UAE. We were met on arrival by EAD Biodiversity Management Sector Protected Area Coordinators Husam El Alqamy and Ahmed Al Dhaheri, who briefed us and escorted us, by way of an impromptu sand-driving adventure, to a choice campsite in the dunes, also swinging by oryx and gazelle feeding stations before sundown. Husam explained that feed, water & shade have to be provided to the animals released here now (& for the foreseeable future), as the natural vegetation has been degraded by grazing camels, still not under complete control.

Speaking of camels, on this trip the secret of how camels store water for periods of 40 days or more was revealed. It's NOT in their humps, which are composed of fat and are for the storage of reserve food energy. Camel meat contains no cholesterol but does contain a high concentration of urea (you can smell it!). Uric acid is hydroscopic and holds water in concentration. For this reason, Islamic law requires ablutions after handling raw camel meat.



Husam and Ahmed briefing our group on the dunes  
 Photo: PK Ashraf



Oryx herd taking off from feeding station on our arrival  
 Photo: PK Ashraf



Oryx adult, white juvenile and small brown calf  
 Photo: Andrew Bean



Archaeological remnant: hearth with scorched rocks  
 Photo: May Yoke Taylor

On Friday evening Husam returned to our campsite with a laptop computer on which he showed us a video / PowerPoint detailing EAD's programme of improving the genetic diversity of the oryx population at this site by interbreeding genetically different animals, from San Diego Zoo, Al Ain Zoo, Sir Bani Yas, etc. One fascinating detail concerned the need to maintain a lower ratio of males to females to maximize genetic variety. The ratio in the wild is one Alpha Male to ten females. At the reserve they are released at 1:4, but in practice it is about 1:40, with the left-over males fighting a lot. This is due to concentration of all necessary resources at a single feeding station. Next season they may experiment with a station for food, another for water and a third for shade to spread the population.

On Saturday, our guides escorted us to one of their HQ buildings containing a solar energy collection system that generates and stores electrical power. We hope to present more details on this system in a focus write-up of a planned repeat trip to this reserve next season. They also took us by an archaeological excavation of a house foundation & stone hearth dating back about 8,000 years. On the way out, we visited plantations/oryx feeding stations that had the added purpose of clearly demarcating the UAE-KSA border. We were led via off-road sand tracks all the way through this fenced-off area, finally reaching Hameem, in East Liwa, from which we each made our own way home.



ENHG group photo at the Oryx Protected Area  
 Photo: PK Ashraf

For more info on the oryx project, see these links: Abu Dhabi Week, May 4: [Oryx conservation in Abu Dhabi](#); The National, June 17: [Antelope saved from extinction](#).

Keith Taylor/Michael Creamer

**Electrical Systems at the Oryx Center**



Arabian Oryx Protected Area HQ Building  
 Photo: May Yoke Taylor

On our recent visit to the Oryx Protected Area we got a chance to examine the energy source used at the main

building. The headquarters consists of about twelve rooms, three dedicated to the power and water supply. Once inside we could see a very large boiler to our right, used for the distillation process. The truly interesting thing however was the large electrical system panel (I do not know what else to call it). It looked similar to the motherboard of a computer, it was explained to us that this was used to control both the still and the energy distribution. The system itself uses conventional Photo-Voltaic Panels set up on the roof of the building. The electricity produced is then stored on a connected circuit with four dozen deep cycle batteries hooked into the mains of the building; this produces enough electricity to power the entire facility.



Electrical system panel at the Oryx Center  
 Photo: May Yoke Taylor



Deep cycle storage batteries at the Oryx Center  
 Photo: May Yoke Taylor

At one time this facility was connected to the power grid by a series of poles and cables running for miles and miles across the desert. These now lie disused, fallen helter-skelter across the landscape; the copper cables sold for scrap.

**Quetzal Creamer-Shorey**

### Noukhada Bird Island Kayaking Tour

On 6<sup>th</sup> May a rather large group of ENHG members enjoyed an unusual kayaking tour with the Noukhada Adventure Company (see website link on p. 10). After boarding kayaks on Bisrat Fahad Island (off the main highway between Saadiyat and Yas Islands), we paddled over a kilometre against the tide past the plentiful mangroves, rounding a headland to moor our craft in a small sheltered cove.

On land, we explored a long-disused small army barracks and checked out a complex falcon trapper's set-up, with a hide structure & a pulley-wound line for

pulling a fake rabbit, attracting a leashed kestrel, in turn attracting the attention of an overhead falcon which would swoop down and be caught in a net. We then paddled to the miniscule, rocky Bird Island, where we found two nests, one with a clutch of eggs, which we trust the Egyptian Geese that flew off on our arrival & we trust returned to thereafter to continue their brooding.



Falcon trapper's hide on a mangrove-fringed island  
 Photo: May Yoke Taylor



Kayak-level view of Bird Island  
 Photo: Gordon Higgs



Egyptian Goose eggs in nest on Bird Island  
 Photo: Gordon Higgs

**Keith Taylor**

### Camping Trip to Wadi Bih

On the weekend of 20<sup>th</sup> May, a group of 11 camped above Wadi Bih on a trip led by Keith, who volunteered to take over from Andrew, whose vehicle was out of commission. Arriving from Dibba, Oman late on the Friday afternoon, and passing the summit in search of the best campsite, we were turned back at the Omani army checkpoint down in Wadi Bih itself, and it seems there is no road access for non-GCCC nationals to any part west to the Wadi Bih Ras al-Khaimah road or north to the Khasab road if arriving from Dibba (and vice versa). There are good camping spots, though, on the summit ridge, and we doubled back to one of them.

It was a little too hot even at 1000 metres above sea level, where we camped, but we were thrilled by the

exceptional scenery. The ground seemed to radiate the day's stored heat into the tents well into the night (37 °C after midnight!), though a slight breeze was welcome. After dark and before the full moon rose, the club's Sky Scout, a clever GPS-activated astronomical observation tool, provided welcome entertainment for young and old, helping us identify the brightly displayed constellations.

On the way up, we enjoyed inspecting the old terraced fields which in their day supplied mountain crops to the ancient town of Julfar. There were numerous bird species to be found enjoying water from the numerous goat drinking troughs. Angie spotted Hume's Wheatear *Oenanthe albonigra*, Purple Sunbird *Cinnyris asiaticus*, Desert Lark *Ammomanes deserti* and possibly Striolated Bunting (formerly House Bunting) *Emberiza striolata*.



Hume's Wheatear



Desert Lark

We also identified the varying tree types including ghaf, which has roots that go 65 metres into the ground, and wadi fig lining the narrow walls of Wadi Kabb ash-Shamsi on the way up. We also saw a number of large Sodom's Apple bushes. All those species disappeared as we gained altitude, with low bushes predominating.

Feral donkeys thought we were interesting and hung around our camp all night---so campers beware: hide your food! These animals, generally rare in the mountains, are mainly abundant where they are encouraged, albeit unwittingly, by humans. We assume they pose threat to "natural" vegetation; but it's likely the more prevalent feral goats pose a more serious threat.

Saturday saw the group slowly winding down the wadi, photographing classic views on the way, refreshing at the Golden Tulip Hotel and then finally enjoying a relieving coolish swim in the ocean.



Our compact convoy negotiating Wadi Kabb ash-Shamsi

A must-do again when cooler weather would allow hiking—no later than April, we reckon.

**Ron Priestley/Keith Taylor**

**Photographs by Angie Marles**

## Bats and Geckos at Qarn Nazwa



Waiting for the bats to emerge from Qarn Nazwa

On 3<sup>rd</sup> June, Drew Gardner led a search for bats, geckos (and vipers) at Qarn Nazwa, a rocky outcropping in Sharjah Emirate on the Hatta Road. Though the spectacular sundown swarm of bats recounted from previous visits didn't materialise, five or six Naked Bellied Tomb Bats, *Taphozous nudiventris*, and more than twice as many of the smaller Kuhl's Pipistrelles *Pipistrellus kuhli*, flew out of small caves and crevices in ones & twos. Drew suggested that most of the bats may have shifted to another roosting area (not uncommon).

We didn't encounter any dangerous Sind saw-scaled vipers this time, but we did see three species of geckos: the rock-hopping Persian Leaf-toed Gecko *Hemidactylus persicus*, Eastern Sand Gecko *Stenodactylus leptocosymbotes* & Baluch ground gecko *Bunopus tuberculatus*.

Off the E-77 on the way back we didn't find any Wonder Geckos—a pity—but found three species by torchlight as we spread out across the dunes: more Baluch Ground Geckos, Dune Sand Gecko *Stenodactylus doriae* & Arabian Sand Gecko *Stenodactylus arabicus*.



Persian Leaf-toed Gecko



Adult Eastern Sand Gecko



Baby Eastern Sand Gecko



Baluch Ground Gecko

NB: See [June-July 2009](#) focus for a more detailed report on a previous trip to Qarn Nazwa, including a photo of a Wonder Gecko, *Teretoscincus keyserlingii*.

**Keith Taylor**

**All photographs by May Yoke Taylor**

## Whale Sharks Tagged in Satellite Tracking Project

*NB: This article was published in The National on May 9, 2011. It is reprinted with permission. –Ed.*



David Robinson tags his first whale shark, an eight-metre female named Amna. It is hoped the data from the tag, and of 25 others, will help scientists understand the role local waters play in the life of the shark.

*Photo Courtesy of Simone Caprodossi*

Amna, an eight-metre female whale shark found swimming near an oil rig on April 23, was the first of her kind to be tagged in the Arabian Gulf.

In the next five years, an additional 25 whale sharks will be tagged, as researchers attempt to demystify the behaviour of the world's largest fish.

The whale shark, which can grow up to 12 metres long and weigh 21 tonnes, is notable not just for its size. It also migrates for tremendous distances and dives to depths of one kilometre. However, it is also at risk of extinction, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

David Robinson, a researcher at the Heriot-Watt University Dubai, is among a handful of researchers in the Gulf who are attempting to learn more about the shark's population size and habits.

"We do not know if they stay regional, if they migrate to and from this area, or if they are simply passing through," said Mr Robinson, who is studying for his doctorate at the university.

The satellite tags will track the sharks for six months before detaching automatically. The data from the tags will form part of Mr Robinson's PhD dissertation and will help conservationists understand the role regional waters play in the life of the animal.

The information will help conservationists push for stronger legislation to protect the sharks in the countries whose waters they inhabit. While the whale shark is already protected under UAE law, other countries in the GCC lack such regulations.

"To be able to protect a species, we must first know how that species utilises its environment," Mr Robinson said.

In addition to tracking the sharks' migratory routes, the tags also record how deep they are swimming. Tracking the sharks' depth provides scientists an insight into their diets, as well as what temperatures they prefer.

Despite their size, whale sharks are filter feeders, living off microscopic plankton in the water.

Presently, little is known about the behaviour of sharks in the region. In the Indian Ocean, the fish are predominantly male. However, the Gulf region appears to have higher populations of females and juveniles, which, according to the wildlife documentary filmmaker Jonathan Ali Khan, means the region may act as a nursery and breeding ground for the sharks.

Historically, waters in the Gulf region have been heavily protected, making them ideal breeding grounds.

"Until the advent of the oil era, the shallow areas of the region have been quite void of human interference," said Mr Ali Khan.

"Now, in under 50 years, there has been a changed dynamic of the sea and our interaction with marine life," he added.

Conservationists have launched other efforts to learn more about the lives of whale sharks. In 2009, an online database was launched to record sightings.\*

The website acts as the Gulf arm of a global whale shark database created in 2003. The site enables anyone to upload images and details of sightings. Mr Ali Khan estimated that he has already increased the information available about the shark's life in the region by 80 to 100 per cent.

The global database utilises a computer software tool that can identify individual whale sharks by the unique spot patterns on their skin behind the gills. For conservationists, the information is an important tool in convincing decision-makers of the importance of regional waters to the shark's international migrations.

"We need to broaden the outlook to ensure the areas where the whale sharks are known to frequent have protective measures taken," Mr Ali Khan said.

**Megan Detrie** [mdetrie@thenational.ae](mailto:mdetrie@thenational.ae)

\*See *Sharkwatch Arabia* website address on p. 10. – Ed.

## ABBA

### (Atlas of Breeding Birds of Arabia)

The final Atlas is now published\* (as vol. 25 of *Fauna of Arabia*) but the ABBA project continues under the leadership of Coordinator Mike Jennings. Mike, who was recently the guest speaker at Inter-Emirates Weekend, wants to spread the word that the ABBA project is definitely *not* finished and is still actively collecting information on bird distribution, habitat changes, and species ecology in Arabia for the period since July 2010. (The project will also gratefully receive information relating to the earlier period not previously reported.)

Because birds are very mobile in range and population and are currently subject to a number of pressures in Arabia, such as climate change, habitat change and conservation pressures, it is important that changes are documented. Distribution data is welcome each year to up-date information held on common species everywhere in Arabia, to add additional birds discovered breeding in new areas and even new breeding birds for Arabia. Mike hopes in due course to completely revamp

the existing database, going over to a more interactive system which will offer more opportunities for people to share the data collected for their own purposes. There will also be a new website (the existing site dates from about 2002).

Instructions and forms for contributors are available from the ABBA website:

<http://dSPACE.dial.pipex.com/arabian.birds> or from Mike Jennings at: [arabianbirds@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:arabianbirds@dsl.pipex.com) Also encouraged are short reports for *Phoenix* or longer papers for *Sandgrouse* or other scientific journals.

**Gary Feulner**

\**The Atlas* is available from Karger Libri, Basle, Switzerland, Attn. Andrea Murdoch, [a.murdoch@libri.ch](mailto:a.murdoch@libri.ch), Tel: +41-61-306-1523. – Ed.



Birding with Mike Jennings in East Liwa, IEW 2011

Photo: May Yoke Taylor

## Upcoming Speakers

The season-ending ENHG lecture on Houbara Conservation on June 21<sup>st</sup> will consist of two back-to-back presentations. The first, *A Global Overview of the International Fund for Houbara Conservation*, will be given by Delphine Delire, Head of Communications and Public Relations at the IFHC. The second, *The Conservation of the Houbara Bustard in Asia and the Middle-East*, will be given by Dr. Jacky Judas. Biographical information on both speakers follows.



French and Dutch speaking and born in Brussels (Belgium), **Delphine Delire** is the Head of Communications and Public Relations at International Fund for Houbara Conservation (IFHC).

Prior to joining IFHC in the beginning of 2009, Delphine was a Consultant within the Environment Agency in Abu Dhabi, handling the public relations and communications projects around Houbara conservation and promoting the UAE's cultural heritage and falconry.

Delphine's passion for Houbara started in Morocco, as she set up the communications department for the Emirates Center for Wildlife Propagation, a Houbara conservation project and one of the International Fund for Houbara Conservation's centers, spending three years there before going back to Brussels to undergo her European Commission's Communications and Public Relations exam.



**Dr. Jacky Judas** is the regional coordinator of research and conservation programmes of the Asian Houbara Bustard in Asia and the Middle-East for Reneco for Wildlife Preservation Ltd, a private company based in Abu Dhabi. He is working at the National Avian research Center (NARC) of Abu Dhabi near Sweihan, where he is also managing the Ecology and Conservation department.

Under the umbrella of the International Fund for Houbara Conservation (IFHC), Reneco is currently managing the Emirates Centre for Wildlife Propagation (ECWP) in Morocco, the National Avian Research Center (NARC), the Sheikh Khalifa Houbara Breeding Center (SKHBC) in Abu Dhabi, and the Sheikh Khalifa Houbara Breeding Center in Kazakhstan. Reneco is also managing the Emirates Center for the Conservation of Houbara (ECCH), in Uzbekistan, sponsored by the Private Office of the Ruler of Dubai.

After obtaining a Master's Degree in land management at Lille University (France), Jacky spend 1 year in the French Austral and Antarctic Territories studying albatrosses and penguins, and then 4 years in the tropical rain forest of French Guiana to complete his Ph.D. on the ecology of Collared Peccaries for the French National Museum of Natural History.

Then in 1998, Jacky joined the National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) of Saudi Arabia, where he started to work on Houbara Bustard before joining NARC in 2004. NARC was at that time under the management of the Environment Agency of Abu Dhabi, before being privatized in 2009, with the management given to Reneco.

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

## In the Local News Media

The National, May 1: [Global fish supplies 'will disappear in four decades'](#)

The National, May 3: [Historic homes discovered in Al Ain](#)

The National, May 4: [Capital's roadside gardens showcase year-round sustainable beauty](#)

The National, May 7: [Crumbling mosque to be restored](#)

Gulf News, May 8: [Region's first wild whale shark tagged off Qatari oil rig](#)

The National, May 9: [The rejuvenation of Jimi Oasis' walls](#)

The National, May 9: [Is the catwalk the last ecosystem of the Arabian Leopard?](#)

The National, May 11: [Renewables can meet 77 per cent of energy demand by 2050](#)

The National, May 12: [Rare snake now a little rarer](#)

The National, May 13: [Pieces of an ancient jigsaw puzzle](#)

The National, May 14: [Farmers struggle to adapt in competitive market](#)

The National, May 15: [Sharks at risk for overfishing in the UAE](#)

The National, May 23: [Wildlife paradise on Sir Bu Nair island](#)

The National, May 25: [Rare birds new to the region spotted in UAE](#)

The National, May 27: [UAE-funded centre revives endangered bird population](#)

## 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: [hdsdas@ead.ae](mailto:hdsdas@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)

**Corporate Sponsors of the ENHG - 2010**

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.

**Bin Moosa & Daly**



**British Petroleum**



**Dome International L.L.C.**



**Exova**



**ExxonMobil**



**Fugro Survey (Middle East) Ltd.**



**International Bechtel Company, Ltd.**



**Kharafi National**



**Al Masaood Group**



**Mott MacDonald, Ltd.**



**Nautica Environmental Associates L.L.C.**



**Partex Oil and Gas**



**Readymix Abu Dhabi Limited L.L.C.**



**Shell**



**Total ABK**



**TOTAL**

**Ultra Dascam (Shaheen)**



**URS**



Dames & Moore

**Wave Craft, Ltd.**  
(Auditor Nick Benges Co.)



**WSP Group**



**ITEMS ON SALE**

**AT THE ENHG BOOK STALL**

*All prices are in dirhams.*

- 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 Chair.)*
- Wild about Mammals, 40.
- Wild about Reptiles, 40.
- Snakes of Arabia, 50.
- Breeding Birds of the United Arab Emirates, 100.
- Abu Dhabi Bird checklist, 10.
- Sandgrouse checklist of the birds of the United Arab Emirates, 25.
- Emirates Bird Report, 20.
- Birdwatching guide to Oman, 2nd edition, 100. *Guide to bird watching spots in Oman.*
- Common Birds in Oman, 2nd ed, Dhs 120.
- Butterflies of Saudi Arabia & its neighbours 90.
- Trucial States, 120.
- UAE in Focus, 100.
- Oman 1965, 120.
- Natural History of Oman, 50.
- Feast of Dates, 100.
- Field Guide to the Geology of Oman, 75.
- Abu Dhabi 8 Million Years ago, 15.
- Arabian Wildlife Encyclopedia, 120.
- Sulphur, Camels and Gunpowder, 100.
- Native Plants of Oman, 80
- Little O in Oman, 25.
- Heritage Vol. 1, 60.

## Committee Members

Drew Gardner  
(Chairman)  
Mobile: 050-667-5830  
[drew.gardner@zu.ac.ae](mailto:drew.gardner@zu.ac.ae)

Keith Taylor  
(Deputy Chairman / focus Editor)  
Mobile: 050-820-4938  
[kjtaylor13@yahoo.com](mailto:kjtaylor13@yahoo.com)

Julie Bird  
(Secretary)  
050-615-4757  
[julieinad@yahoo.com](mailto:julieinad@yahoo.com)

Ron Priestley  
(Treasurer)  
050-315-9908  
[ronprst@gmail.com](mailto:ronprst@gmail.com)

Peter Hellyer  
(Editor of *Tribulus* / Librarian)  
Mobile: 050-642-4357  
[peter@extinfo.gov.ae](mailto:peter@extinfo.gov.ae)

Barbara Barton Smith  
(Membership Secretary)  
050 761-6880  
[barbbartonsmith@yahoo.com](mailto:barbbartonsmith@yahoo.com)

Andrew Bean  
(Excursion Secretary)  
Mobile: 050-322-1327  
[rexabean@emirates.net.ae](mailto:rexabean@emirates.net.ae)

Feng Wen  
(Assistant Excursion Secretary)  
Mobile: 050-622-1485  
[feng.wen@adpc.ae](mailto:feng.wen@adpc.ae)

Monika Laabs-Muellner  
(Lecture Coordinator)  
056-122-1955  
[laabs.muellner@gmx.de](mailto:laabs.muellner@gmx.de)

Ann Pearson  
(Corporate Sponsorship Secretary)  
055-748-2956  
[ann.pearson9@btinternet.com](mailto:ann.pearson9@btinternet.com)

Louise Welch  
(Book Stall Coordinator)  
Mobile: 050-189-4492  
[nangadamai@hotmail.com](mailto:nangadamai@hotmail.com)

Avra Theophanous  
(Book Stall Assistant)  
[avra.theophanous@gmail.com](mailto:avra.theophanous@gmail.com)

Gaby Zedulka-Mailloux  
(Book Stall Assistant)  
[gabrielle.mailloux@adu.ac.ae](mailto:gabrielle.mailloux@adu.ac.ae)

Dick Hornby  
(Member)  
Mobile: 050-662-4501  
[dnahornby@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dnahornby@yahoo.co.uk)

Stefan Beck  
(Member)  
Phone: 02-582-9359  
[stefan\\_k\\_beck@yahoo.de](mailto:stefan_k_beck@yahoo.de)

## Lectures

**Both June talks are at our standard venue: HCT/Abu Dhabi Men's College Auditorium**

Press CTRL+click [here](#) to view map/directions.

7<sup>th</sup> June  
Why Archaeology in the UAE is Important

**Dr. Jeffrey Szuchman**

21<sup>st</sup> June **7:30 PM**  
Global Overview of the International Fund for Houbara Conservation; Conservation of the Houbara Bustard in Asia and Middle-East

**Delphine Delire & Dr. Jacky Judas**

*NB: The ENHG Lecture Programme takes a break during July and August. The season-opening talk on 6<sup>th</sup> Sept. will be an intro. to the UAE's natural history by Dr. Drew Gardner. -Ed.*

## Field Trips

3<sup>rd</sup> June  
Bat & Gecko Spotting Trip to Qarn Nazwa

**Dr. Drew Gardner**

*NB: No more official field trips will be scheduled till September. However, if you will be in the UAE this summer and would like to organise a day trip with fellow ENHG members, you can post a message about this to the Yahoo Groups website shown below, and your post will be approved by one of the group moderators. -Ed.*

## 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.com>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sharjah Museums: <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>

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

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

Marine Lakes Blog: <http://marine-lakes.blogspot.com/>

## 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: 008821644400956

No. 2: 008821644400965

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

## 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).

## 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.)