

# GAZELLE

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مجموعة دبي للتاريخ الطبيعي

**DUBAI NATURAL HISTORY GROUP**

PO Box 9234, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

## Members' News

### *Goings and Comings*

Former DNHG member **John Martin**, visiting from the Lake District, joined Gary Feulner for a National Day weekend in the Ibri area of Oman. Among other things, they hiked to the top of Jebel Ra'is, an isolated limestone massif that is the highest peak between the Jebel Akhdar and the Musandam, where they found soaring griffon vultures, scattered olive trees and an odd species of *Fagonia* plant. They also visited the dramatic remains of the fortified village of Sulayf, near Ibri, which we hope to include in a DNHG field trip early in the new year.

**Colin Paskins** keeps an eye out for the unusual and has forwarded a mole cricket which he collected recently in Abu Dhabi. In fact, the last one of these strange insects that came to our attention, years ago, was also from Colin, who had interrupted a business lunch at a beachside hotel to collect it. Reference to *Insects of Eastern Arabia* suggests that the local variety is probably a *Gryllotalpa* species, closely related to the European mole cricket. The most distinguishing feature is the shape of the front claws, which are modified to resemble broad, toothed scrapers and are used to burrow in soft soil. Mole crickets

spend most of their life underground eating plant roots and small insects. They in turn are one of the underground prey items of the Hoopoe, which probes the soil with its long bill.



*Reem or Desert Gazelle*  
(From Mary Beardwood's *Childrens' Encyclopaedia of Arabia*)

With Dubai's rapid urban development, **Peter van Amsterdam** says he is "almost over the desert". (He is really over trying to get to it.) But this week, in the sands near the old Jebel Ali road, Peter was delighted to see not just a few gazelle tracks, but many. The tracks are small, a little dug-in because their hooves are so small, and have a characteristic drag mark here and there. It is more than a year since Peter has seen any gazelle, but if they keep away from people and 4WDs, it may be no bad thing.

### *DNHG Membership Renewals*

September 2005 starts our new DNHG membership year. Please make our lives easier by renewing early. Membership remains a bargain at Dhs. 100 for couples and Dh. 50 for singles. You can join or renew at meetings or by sending us a cheque made out to Lloyds Bank account no. 173746. (Please note we cannot cash cheques made out to the DNHG.)

DNHG membership entitles you to participate in field trips and helps pay for our lecture hall, publication and distribution of our monthly newsletter, the *Gazelle*, additions to our library, incidental expenses of speakers and occasional special projects.

#### *And please note!*

If you are not receiving your *Gazelle*, it may be that you have not renewed your membership for '05 — '06. If you have renewed, and you don't get it, let us know.

### **This month's Contributors**

**The Editor would like to thank the following for their reports and contributions:**

Mike Lorrigan & Richard Dennis  
Sandy Fowler  
Gary Feulner  
Sandya Prakash

**Under the patronage of H.E. Sheikh Nahayan bin Mubarak Al Nahayan**



## Adventures!

Jean Allan has promised to lead another of her famous Bastakia walks, possibly in January or February. Details will be made available closer to the time.

### Jebel Shams camping and Rim Walk - Peter van Amsterdam Jan 25-27, 2006

This is a long trip, and we need to leave on Wednesday afternoon, stay at the Ibri Hotel that night, and get up to the campsite on Thursday. We will do the walk early on Friday. It is only a couple of kilometres, and relatively easy, but one of the most spectacular walks around. Please contact Peter van Amsterdam at [pvana@emirates.net.ae](mailto:pvana@emirates.net.ae) as soon as possible to register, and he will tell you everything you need to know.

### Inter-Emirates Weekend – Ras Al Khaimah Thursday-Friday, 16-17 March 2006

Each year in March/April the UAE's three Natural History Groups – Emirates Natural History Group Abu Dhabi, Emirates Natural History Group Al Ain and the Dubai Natural History Group – get together for an educational yet social weekend involving a dinner and various activities and trips. It is a chance to meet up with people/old friends from the other groups. The event is organised annually by one of the groups in rotation. This year it is the turn of the Dubai Natural History Group.

IEW 2006 will be based at the Ras Al Khaimah Hotel, Ras Al Khaimah and the program will begin on Thursday morning, March 16. The hotel has made a block booking of rooms for the weekend on a first-come first-served basis. However, in view of the increased tourism in RAK and the peak season date of IEW, it will be necessary to confirm and guarantee your booking by the end of January 2006, i.e., six weeks

prior to the event. We recognize that not everyone finds it ideal to plan that far ahead, but the hotel cannot hold the rooms on any other basis.

Hotel rates (per night) are:  
Double Room/Twin Room – Dh 350 (inclusive of breakfast & tax)  
Single Room – Dh 300 (inclusive of breakfast & tax)  
Children below 12 years may stay free.

On Thursday evening there will be a buffet dinner (Dh 60 per person incl.) plus entertainment. Packed lunches are available for Thu and Fri for Dh 55.

To make a reservation, either email the hotel – [rakhotel@emirates.net.ae](mailto:rakhotel@emirates.net.ae) or fax on 07-236-2990, attention Reservations – Johnson. Hotel phone number is 07-236-2999. Mention Dubai Natural History Group – Inter-Emirates Weekend when you make your booking.

Among the activities that we expect to offer are:

- ◆ Shelling at Rams beach
- ◆ Off-road driving "over the top" from RAK to Dibba, via Wadi Bih (Friday only)
- ◆ Guided tours of RAK archaeological sites, including: Shimal, Kush, Julfar, Dhayah Fort, Falayyah, Qarn Al-Harf, Kilns at Wadi Haqil
- ◆ Mountain walks in the Musandam
- ◆ Birdwatching
- ◆ RAK Museum

Further details will be given at meetings and in the next *Gazelle*, and a programme will be completed and circulated by mid-January. For more details in the interim, contact our DNHG Vice Chairman Valerie at [valeriechalmers@hotmail.com](mailto:valeriechalmers@hotmail.com) or tel. 04-3494816.



## LOOK THE PART!

The DNHG has navy blue sweat shirts, with the DNHG emblem embroidered in silver. Sizes: Large and Extra Large Dh65/- each, and silver grey polo shirts with the DNHG emblem embroidered in black. Sizes: Medium, Large and Extra Large Dh50/- each. The quality of both items is excellent!

## Our Next Speaker

Razik Shaikh has been working for Dubai Petroleum Company as a petroleum geologist since August 2001. Prior to joining DPC, he worked in the UK for Schlumberger GeoQuest, Western Geophysical, Baker Atlas, and Halliburton Geophysical Services. Razik has a Bachelors Degree in Geology from Kingston Polytechnic, and Masters Degree in Petroleum Geology from Imperial College London, and a PhD in Sedimentology from the University of Exeter. In his present position at DPC, Razik's responsibilities range from reservoir modelling, to well planning, to drilling, to teaching. Razik is also the Chairman of the Northern Emirates Chapter of the Society of Petroleum Engineers (<http://dubai.spe.org>).

He will speak on *Oil Exploration and Production - The "Magic Eight"*. The Middle East is blessed with huge oil and gas reserves, but how did all that hydrocarbon get there and how did we find it? What he plans to discuss is the origin of the oil and gas, what keeps it under the ground, how do we find it, how do we get it out of the ground & once we have it, what do we do with it? He promises that if there is some time left over he'll also touch on some reserves and economics as well for the more money conscious amongst us!



### Super Stars

The stars were out in the sky, DNHG members were out to meet Lamjed who was all set up with telescope and other marvelous gear on the Lahbab road...

It was a wonderfully clear sky and Venus was the first to set. We learned that Venus is the only planet that has phases like the moon. Mars was close to Earth and resplendently red. The Andromeda galaxy, our milky way's neighbour, and the seven sisters or 'Saptarishi' dotted the sky. Constellations like Orion and Cassiopeia came into view on the telescope one after the other. Some Emiratis who were tending the falcons in the nearby aviary were curious and came to have a look with our enthusiastic group. The Dubai Investment Park lights will ensure we move further up next time, but we look forward to it! Thank you Lamjed! *Report by Sandhya Prakash.*

### Fossils, but no Foxes

Mike Lorrigan and Richard Dennis led this trip, which took in a fossil site, some calcite formations, an overnight camp for foxwatching and a Friday mountain hike.

The party's first stop was the fossil site at 'Gastropod Gulch'. Eventually arriving at the site, Mike explained to the party how he had first found it by seeing small fossil parts on the ground. He then took the group up the same route that he had followed with a friend, to discover the main formations. This route reveals a solid bank of hundreds of fossils closely packed together. The number of "Wows!" as people saw this bank for the first time was a reminder of how he had felt the first time he had seen it.

There was ample opportunity to explore and collect fossils lying on the ground. Tom Horton found a large chunk that included *actionella* and a very well preserved rudist. He took this sample back to place in a prominent position in the school. Valerie Chalmers was on hand to

assist and identified samples for the party.

After spending the best part of an hour at the site, the group then headed off to the calcite formations on the Mahdah 64 track to spend some time exploring these. Expecting the worst in terms of rubbish following the Eid holiday when many visitors had been observed depositing rubbish there, a large black bin bag was brought along and members of the group set about collecting rubbish. It was good to see that someone had already started to clear the site before our DNHG group arrived. Our group completed the clean up - leaving the whole area in pristine condition. A big thanks to all the party who did such a great job of helping to restore it to its natural beauty!

The party then headed to the camp site in 'Donkey/Fox Wadi' (so named by Richard Dennis because of the animals sighted there over the years). Our camp covered a large area with 30+ people cooking food over barbecues.

Disappointingly that evening there was very little fox activity, with Richard Dennis making the first sighting, but only at a distance. A while later Mike Lorrigan also spotted a pair of eyes in the same direction, so that it is probable it was the same creature. Throughout the whole evening, however, there was no significant movement of foxes through the wadi. This is very different from their behaviour in the past two seasons. Two possible reasons come to mind. One is fear of hunters; we have found some evidence of cartridges to support this theory. The second is a significant change of location of the foxes for some reason. We would like to think it was the latter not the former. There is some hope in this respect because of the absence of carcasses. But it was a disappointing evening for those who wanted to see foxes close up - especially the children of the Romeo and David families.

Or perhaps it was the campfire en-

tertainment from Larry Woods (now of 'Singing Professor' fame in Gulf News) - with his excellent singing and humourous readings - and music from Matthieu David and John Chilton. It was all absolutely first class.

Many were awake to greet the sunrise. One participant got up early at daybreak to walk on to a nearby ridge to enjoy the sunrise. As the sky lightened she looked around and saw virtually every ridge also occupied by one of the party. Everyone, it seems, had the same idea!

Finally, after being briefed about safety, a party of eighteen headed off up the wadi. Some of the party had decided not to walk, or had taken a gentler walk with their children in an area that was safer and more open.

Richard's account of the hike follows: 'It began with a look at recent fox and donkey tracks (which were noted in abundance throughout the walk). Rock pools and puddles were also encountered every few metres, indicating recent heavy rain in the mountains and it was interesting to note that most of the pools were already teeming with beetles, even though the whole area had been totally dry just 7 days before when I had walked it. Towards the end of the trek we heard the high-pitched "squeaking" of things lurking not too far away. It wasn't long before we found a few specimens that, upon close observation, were definitely toads. We did not, however, catch a glimpse of the elusive donkeys this time, though their droppings were in evidence. This was possibly an understandable reaction to the loud campfire jokes and "singing" of the night before!'

This trip was heavily oversubscribed and some people had to be turned down. It will be repeated in the early part of 2006 (date to be arranged in Jan/Feb) so, if interested, please contact Richard Dennis on richang4@yahoo.com. *Report compiled by Mike Lorrigan and Richard Dennis.*



E.mail your reports to [pvana@emirates.net.ae](mailto:pvana@emirates.net.ae), (Arial 10 justified) or deliver them to Anne Millen on floppy disk at monthly meetings.

## Rudist Awakening

"They look like big teeth - they're conical, but slightly curved, and they seem to have a longitudinal internal structure." So said Dubai's Andy Whitaker of thumb-sized fossils (see photo on this page) found at a site in the desert south-west of Jebel Fayah, in what should have been shallow water marine rocks of latest Cretaceous to early Tertiary age. Shark teeth can be found as fossils in the UAE and Oman, but these were not shark teeth. Teeth of a large reptile or mammal would be unprecedented.

Andy was referred to the DNHG for help with identification. His photos were forwarded to our own Valerie Chalmers and Angela Manthorpe, both of whom opined immediately that the fossils appeared to be small rudists. Rudists are an extinct family of molluscs having two unequal shells, typically a more or less cone-shaped bottom and a lid-like top. They thrived in Cretaceous times, some of the larger species being major reef-forming organisms, but they perished (along with the dinosaurs and many other organisms) at the end of the Cretaceous.

In the Maastrichtian (latest Cretaceous) Simsim formation of the UAE (the fossil bearing strata at Jebel Fayah, Jebel Rawdhah and Fossil Valley), some 32 species of rudists have been collected and identified by paleontologists from the British Museum, including rudists from Andy's site. Val and Angela compared Andy's photos with their own specimens and with photos and descriptions in the British Museum papers. Angela also turned up a rudist website that mentions rudist fossil sites worldwide,

including several famous ones in Oman. While some of Angela's smaller specimens were very similar to Andy's, none were close enough to claim a perfect match, so at this writing the fossils remain unidentified and Val has duly forwarded the photos to her contacts at the British Museum. Report by Gary Feulner

## Scorpion Identification

Some things are just difficult, and scorpion taxonomy is one of them. As a group, scorpions are considered "morphologically conservative" from an evolutionary point of view. That is to say, most do not vary greatly from the same basic design, with the result that they all tend to look very much alike. Consequently, taxonomic distinctions rest on arcane features such as the arrangement of sensory filaments (trichobothria), details of the sexual organs, and sometimes even on statistical analysis of population samples.

Graeme Lowe, who has collected scorpions systematically throughout Oman and is preparing a definitive taxonomic study, has said (politely but firmly) that at this stage of our knowledge of the scorpion fauna of this area, he would not rely on identifications by anyone other than an experienced scorpion taxonomist, without examining a 'voucher' specimen. He was tempted to make an exception for a few relatively distinctive species, but recent experience proves the wisdom of his fundamental caution.

One of the exceptions might have been the UAE's "big black" scorpion, *Androctonus crassicauda* (a species that should be treated as dangerous), but I have myself been unable to confidently recognize this species in two recent instances. One was a large but not fully adult specimen, which had not yet achieved normal adult proportions - rather like a gawky teenager. The second was a robust adult specimen that was not the usual midnight black, but rather brownish. Graeme was willing to provide ten-

tative identifications from photos, taking advantage of his large collection of specimens of all ages and sexes (most scorpion species are sexually dimorphic to one degree or another), and he was satisfied that both were indeed *A. crassicauda*. Report by Gary Feulner



Scorpion found at the military dump, in the Jebel Ali desert. Its colour was more a pale muddy green. Photo by Peter Hesse.

## New Plants Exhibit

John Martin, a member of the Dubai and Al-Ain Natural History Groups from 1980 to 1992 and a regular UAE winter migrant, writes after a December visit: "Visitors to the Sharjah Natural History Museum (at Flyover # 9 on the Sharjah-Dhaid Road) are in for an extra treat. A new building wing has been completed and is currently being fitted out with lots of hands-on displays on the theme: 'Plant Life'."

"Longer term residents will remember that this museum was built about 10 years ago, mainly to a design by London-based consultants, and was managed for several years by DNHG life member Marijcke Jongbloed. The geology display was modeled on that at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, and was excellent from the outset. However, the plants section was small and less impressive.

"This new addition will certainly put that right, as there will be lots of handles to turn, buttons to press, "pollen" to collect, "seeds" to parachute and "sap" to pump. During my visit I had trouble keeping my hands off. There is also a large greenhouse-like section with growing plants showing the progression



## Dubai Natural History Group Recorders

Reptiles - Dr Reza Khan  
res 344 8283  
off 344 0462  
fax (off) 349 9437

Archaeology - Prof. John Fox  
jfox@aus.ac.ae  
(Temporarily away - hold your reports)

Birds - David Bradford  
davebradford9@hotmail.com

Seashells - perhaps you?

Astronomy - Lamjed El-Kefi  
res: 06-5247 958  
off: 06-5583 003  
email: lankefi@emirates.net.ae

Marine Life - Lamjed El-Kefi

Geology - Gary Feulner  
res 306 5570  
fax 330 3550

Insects – Gary Feulner

Fossils - Valerie Chalmers  
res 349 4816,  
fax 340 0990  
vmc@latifaschool.co.ae

Plants – Valerie Chalmers

### Mammals & Seashells - Recorders needed

The recorders are not necessarily scientific experts in their designated fields. In fact, most are not. However, they are interested and knowledgeable amateurs - please contact them if you have any interesting reports or queries.

The intention is that information will be channelled through to the *Gazelle* editor, so new information can be shared with all our readers.

from "simple" plants like ferns to the more complex types of flowering plants. I have to say, though, that I couldn't see a single likely plant anywhere near a large name-board that says "magnolias." Maybe they only just planted the seeds and all will be revealed in due course!

"As the display is not yet open to the general public (I was reckoned an "insider" since I had been employed there temporarily in 1998), it would be prudent to phone ahead (06-531-1000) to check that the new building is open before you set off with a bus-load of impatient youngsters." *Thanks to John Martin for this information.*

### Ajjic OK for the Agile

Sandy Fowler wrote from Ajjic in November, "I have now been on two walks on the hills behind the village. On both, the variety of plant and insect life especially was stunning.



Trail bug



Trail flower

Animal and bird life was less apparent but I guess both have become wary of the human element in close proximity. On my first walk I was lucky enough to watch soaring buzzards (I think) and a male kestrel (at very long range, below).



Happily the plants stayed obligingly still for photography, although the butterflies were maddeningly elusive! I almost stepped on a snake on the descent from my first walk – it was sunning itself across the path, head and tail off on both sides



Trail bug 2



Trail flower 2  
(Are these their *real* names, Sandy?)

and looked like a tree root. I thought "too smooth and too brown" as I shifted my step to avoid it and sure enough it shot off downhill. I don't think it was a rattlesnake, although they are here, as the body was too thin and the markings not prominent enough. I'm happy I didn't find out that it was a venomous species the hard way.



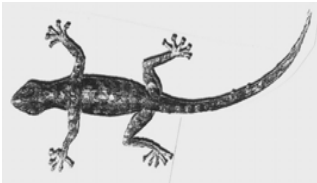
"Later: On my last walk three days ago, I almost stood on a rattlesnake lying in low scrub and dead leaves right at the very side of the path. Mornings are cold now (14-15C) and it was obviously still warming up. It didn't rattle a warning, just moved sluggishly uphill into deeper cover. My camera was in my pack on my back, so no photos, unfortunately. No snakebite either, thank the Lord!! Trip before that, I was lucky enough to see what looked like a peregrine stooping on two buzzards and seeing them off – it was magnificent! As for investigating the lake's molluscs, I am trying to get involved with a local group called Amigos del Lago, but their boss is in hospital right now. This is Mexico – manana will be just fine. Land snails there are and I've found three species already; who knows, I may extend my shelling horizons. Tell Gary there seems to be no NHG here; another Lake Chapala group as yet unborn, perhaps! Greetings to all. *Thanks, Sandy!*



## *The Emirates - A Natural History* (Trident Press)

If you were to buy only one book about the natural history of the UAE, this is the book you should buy - and not surprisingly, since it was conceived and executed as both an attractive and authoritative compendium. It professes to be the first complete reference guide to the wildlife of the UAE ("from pygmy shrews to humpback whales", it says), and it largely succeeds in that claim.

The photographs (the book jacket advertises 580 of them) are uniformly excellent - eye-catching as well as instructive. Individual chapters are authored by local or international experts and the text is generally intended not merely to catalogue species but to orient the reader in terms of major groups of organisms, key concepts about habitat preferences and ecology, and other interesting facts. [Full disclosure: The author of this review is also a contributor to the volume.]



Among the many areas covered are [those that would be expected], like geology, fossils, plants, birds, insects, reptiles, amphibians, and terrestrial and marine mammals. New for UAE publications are extensive chapters devoted to intertidal and shallow water marine life (including algae, sponges, crabs, corals and anemones, among others) that will be valuable to beachcombers, waders, snorkelers and SCUBA divers alike. Also new are sections on more arcane groups such as lichens and land snails.

A bonus for future researchers as well as current residents is a reference section at the back of the book, which includes not only individual chapter references but also a comprehensive bibliography of UAE

natural history sources and compilations of known species lists for several groups. The gestation period spanned three years, but most contributors seem to have stayed abreast of the latest information. The volume even includes late-breaking news about confirmation of the continued presence of *ratel* (honey badgers) in the UAE.

Even for those who are relatively well acquainted with UAE natural history and are inclined to take a "been there, done that" attitude, they will find plenty that is new and interesting in this volume. Or, if not, they can at least indulge in the special pleasure of identifying and lamenting the occasional (and inevitable) error, omission or inanity that has crept into the work of others. I have started a short list - and can probably expect some criticism myself.

It is appropriate to acknowledge the efforts not only of the publisher, editors and contributors, but also of the sponsors of the volume: The Environmental Agency - Abu Dhabi (formerly ERWDA), Mudabala Development Company, First Gulf Bank, Dolphin Energy Limited, Aldar Properties, Total and Shell.

A volume such as this necessarily comes at a cost, and this one is not cheap. We are grateful to publisher Peter Vine and Trident Press for allowing us to make this volume available to DNHG members at a price of Dh 300, which represents a considerable savings on the bookstore price. Copies will be available at the next DNHG lecture on January 8, 2006. (Those who can't wait or who still want to make a holiday gift of it can contact Chairman Gary Feulner.)

Details: *The Emirates - A Natural History*, Hellyer, P. and Aspinall, S., eds., Trident Press, (2005). ISBN: 1-905486-02-2  
428 pgs., weight ~3kg, available online on the Trident Press website: [www.tridentpress.com](http://www.tridentpress.com).  
Review by Gary Feulner



*Centaurea pulchellum*  
Photograph by Marijcke Jongbloed

## *A Short History of Nearly Everything* (Doubleday 2003)

This is now available in paperback by Black Swan (2004). This new-ish book by Bill Bryson, best known as a travel writer, is itself a delightful guided tour for the educated layman through the science of the natural realm, from the formation of the universe and our solar system, through the basic physical principles and phenomena that govern it, to the evolution of life and mankind. It is part science, but more a history of science, with regular doses of gossip about the personalities involved (many of them all but terminally eccentric).

The various threads complement each other to keep it fast paced and entertaining. Even if you have read about Newton's Principia, the early efforts at measurement of the earth, Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, Einstein and relativity, Hubbell and the red shift, the discovery of the structure of DNA, or the revolution in geology wrought by plate tectonics, you will almost certainly find material here that is new. I have insisted on it to friends. If you think you might enjoy it, you probably will. Review by Gary Feulner

### Letters to the Editor

Any news or views you would like published in our monthly newsletter? Feel like tickling things up?



Please send your letter to any of the committee members listed, by fax or e-mail, or direct to the editor, Anne Millen.



	<b>name</b>	<b>tel home</b>	<b>tel office</b>	<b>fax</b>
Chairman	<b>Gary Feulner</b> messages: 306 5300	306 5570	330 3600	330 3550
Vice Chairman	<b>Valerie Chalmers</b> e.mail: vmc@latifaschool.co.ae	349 4816	no calls pls	340 0990
Treasurer	<b>Ranju Kapoor</b> e.mail: ranjukapoor@hotmail.com	295 4816	050-553 7016	2959515
Membership Secretary	<b>Lena Linton</b> e.mail: linton@emirates.net.ae	344 2591		344 2591
Membership Assistant	<b>Anindita Radhakrishna</b> e.mail: anin@emirates.net.ae	282 3952	050-656 9165	
Speaker Co-ordinator	<b>Geoff Sanderson</b> e.mail:geoffrey_ssanderson@hotmail.com	050-6569242		
Fieldtrip Co-ordinator	<b>Pradeep Radhakrishna</b> e.mail: wgarnet@emirates.net.ae	282 3952	050-450 8496	
Fieldtrip Co-ordinator	<b>Peter Jackson</b> email: pj.architect@gmail.com	2882713	335 4545 050-5521005	3354338
Fieldtrip Co-ordinator	<b>Sandhya Prakash</b> e.mail:sandhya@clavib.com	050-5512481		348 2868
Special Projects	<b>Beryl Comar</b> e.mail: comar@emirates.net.ae	344 2243		344 2243
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### *Urban Osprey*

Kestrels are a fairly common sight from the windows of Emirates Towers, perched on the narrow chrome ledges or patrolling the landscaped grounds below. Dark eagles (not always easy to identify to species) are also seen occasionally, many probably visiting while on migration via the head of Dubai Creek. In late November, however, I scored a new visitor - an osprey.

I was distracted from my paperwork by a persistent, plaintive chirping that gradually impinged on my consciousness and seemed very near at hand. I rose slowly to look over the wing of my desk and found myself face-to-face, at little more than a metre's distance, with a large bird on the ledge immediately below, looking almost directly at me. Positive identification was relatively easy; the combination of a dark

back and all-white underside, with a white head and dark facial stripe, is distinctive. The guide-books remark on the "mournful" or "piteous" call. Since the bird was looking directly at the semi-reflective windows of the building, I wonder if it was calling to its own image. Unfortunately it seemed unsatisfied with mine, which put it to flight. *Report by Gary Feulner*



*Osprey (Photograph by Fi Skennerton)*

### *Urban Insects*

It was delightful to note that in the small temple shops of Bur Dubai, garlands of jasmine were frequented by bees. They were small greyish bees, and were probably the species native to the UAE. Outside, wasps buzzed around the pots of herbs. And in a garden of ground-cover plants, the wasps or hornets flew around so fast and relentlessly, that I was never quite able to see them. They were large – perhaps 2cm – and had an orange/brown thorax and proximal abdomen, and a striped distal abdomen of an indeterminate colour, perhaps grey and white. I have seen these also near the pool in the Green Community. Has anyone caught and identified them? There are quite a few different butterflies in these gardens, as well. *Anne Millen*

## Dubai Natural History Group Programme

Lectures at Emirates Academy of Hospitality Management, 7.30 for 8.00pm

Jan 8 Oil Exploration and Production – Razak Sheikh  
(This meeting has been brought forward from January 15)

Feb 5 TBA

### Field Trips (Members only, please. Details inside.)

Jan 25-27 Jebel Shams camping and Rim Walk - Peter van Amsterdam

Mar 16-17 Inter-Emirates Weekend (Ras Al Khaimah)