

GAZELLE

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مجموعة دبي للتاريخ الطبيعي

DUBAI NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

PO Box 9234, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Members' News

Upward & Onward

For **Anna Griffin**, newly retired as *Gazelle* editor, it sometimes seems the only way is up. Last month Anna travelled to Tanzania to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro, 5895m. "The final push for Uhuru Peak was much harder than we expected" says Anna, "but we rewarded ourselves with a few days on safari, animal and bird watching".

Barbara Couldrey spent a most enjoyable Eid al Adha in Egypt. Amidst tombs and temples, she met up with **Martin Parker** (ex DNHG) and trekked up Jebel Mousa (Mt Sinai) and Jebel Katarina (2642m, the highest in Egypt) and over some red granite ridges. They had excellent sightings of the white-crowned black wheatear (the Hume's wheatear is rarely seen), Sinai rosefinch, rock martins and a rather friendly sand partridge. Droppings of both the Blandford and red fox were noted. Geologically, it was fascinating to see the dark bands of magma stretching across the lower jebel.

Martin has kindly donated two excellent books to the DNHG library: "Natural Selections", a year of Egypt's wildlife, and "Egypt's Natural Heritage", full of fantastic photography.

Angela and Stephen Manthorpe, who served as acting joint co-chairs of the DNHG during 1994-1995, returned to England in 2000 after a year spent touring Central and South America. After several months spent catching up on life in Britain in the 21st century, they both started new jobs in July in the telecommunications industry. They are living in a village near Cambridge and Stephen commutes to London. "Believe it or not," they write, "we do plan to dive in the UK and we've already bought drysuits & tried them out in the swimming pool. And we've also been to more gigs in the last 12 months than we have in the previous 8 years."

Dubai's bulk mailing post office has moved out to Al-Ramool, and **Sandy Ellis** has kindly volunteered to take over monthly mailings of the *Gazelle*. We are pleased to say thanks to outgoing Postmaster **Gail Gordon**, who made a family affair of the monthly chore. She says the only complaint was from her husband, who says he's still looking for a good quality stapler.

And, yes, that smiling face you saw in the newspaper last month was our own **Dr. Sandy Fowler**, Committee member at-large and Seashell Recorder extraordinaire,

being celebrated for his UAE shell collection (consisting of more than 500 identified local species), his *Rough Sheller's Guide to the UAE* (see February 2001 *Gazelle*), and his patience and persistence. Says Sandy, "It is like being a fisherman: If you don't get a catch today, there is always a next time."

Arabian Wildlife Magazine

Our January *Gazelle* reviewed *Arabian Wildlife* magazine, happily back in circulation with funding from private advertising. We neglected to mention that, at the insistence of the publisher, Peter Vine, thousands of copies will be regularly distributed through schools and other institutions and societies, including the DNHG, with proceeds from the modest cover price to be at the disposal of these groups. This extends Peter Vine's long history of commitment to environmental education and conservation in Arabia.

This month's Contributors

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

Marijcke Jongbloed
Gary Feulner
David Snelling
Barbara Couldrey
Mike and Jill Oates



Field Trips etc ...

Sir Bani Yas Island April 5/6

David Snelling reports that there is strong interest in a return visit to Sir Bani Yas, Sheikh Zayed's private island, on April 5 and 6. An impressive 42 people have signed up and he has asked the island's booking office if the entire group would be welcome on April 6. The list is now closed as he doesn't yet know the answer. The plan is to drive the 350 kms there on April 5 and stay overnight in Jebel Dhana at the Dhafra Beach Hotel, 10 minutes from the pier, go out by boat at 9.30am on Friday, returning to the mainland at 4pm. The boat trip takes 30 minutes.

The route to Jebel Dhana takes you along the Abu Dhabi highway, past Ghantoot then bypassing Abu Dhabi. Follow the signs for Mafaf and then Tarif at an overpass over the Al Ain highway. Petrol is available at Tarif, about two hours before the hotel. Continue west from Ruwais to the Dhafra Beach Hotel, PO Box 11828, Al Ruwais, Abu Dhabi (ph. 02 - 877 1600, fax 02 - 877 1002 / 1354). The contact for Sir Bani Yas is Dr Najj 050 442 3992, fax 02 877 9144

Melvin Pais, in the Dhafra Beach Hotel front office, has quoted special rates of Dhs 150/- single, Dhs 200/- double, plus 16% service charge (reference 9390). Interconnecting family rooms are available by arrangement and there is a restaurant offering international cuisine, as well as a large pool and even a nightclub. Payment is by cash or credit card. Members must arrange their own hotel rooms and confirm their request to Melvin at the hotel by fax.

Also on the same weekend, April 5/6, is the *Al Ain Festival*. This is not, of course, a DNHG event, but is worth noting, if you cannot get to the Inter-Emirates Weekend, for its interesting cultural activities.

Inter-Emirates Weekend Al Ain April 19/20

Mary Beardwood has contacted Al Ain Intercontinental and Al Buraimi Hotels about reservations for our group for the Inter-Emirates weekend. She has reserved 20 rooms for our group at both of these hotels. If you require accommodation you must contact them yourself, giving details, credit card no. etc. Please mention you are taking one of the rooms reserved for DNHG.

Note: Accommodation is very short in Al Ain in April, so swift action is needed to ensure a room.

Al Ain Intercontinental Tel. 03 - 7686686 Sales Manager: Laila 050 - 4499851
Room rates: Single Dhs 250/ + 16% sales tax, breakfast included
Double Dhs 300/+ 16% sales tax, breakfast included.

Al Buraimi Hotel Tel: 00968 - 652010 (Buraimi is in Oman, but no visas are needed for it.) Fax: 00968 - 652011 or for further information contact Mr. Giuseppe Robustelli 050 - 6433191
Room rates: Single Dh 215/ net with breakfast for one
Double Dhs 265/ net with breakfast for two

More information on the weekend's activities will appear on Al Ain Natural History Club's website <http://pages.about.com/enhg>
A special page for the Inter-Emirates weekend will be listed on the home page.

Birdwatching at Al Wathba, Abu Dhabi April 27 (to be confirmed)

David Snelling has had to change the date for this trip, so watch this space in April's Gazelle for details.

DNHG Membership

DNHG membership is a bargain at Dhs. 50 (singles or couples). You can join or renew at meetings (see Membership Secretary Fi Skennerton), or by sending her a cheque made out to Lloyds Bank account no. 173746. (Please note we cannot cash cheques made out to the DNHG.) Membership is valid from September 2000 to September 2001, and entitles you to participate in field trips. It helps pay for our lecture hall, publication and distribution of our monthly newsletter, additions to our library, incidental expenses of speakers and occasional special projects.

A new DNHG Committee was elected at the Annual General Meeting held on February 25. The new Committee members and their contact information are listed on page 7. To retiring Committee members Peter and Anna Griffin and Gail Gordon, we give thanks not only for their contributions of time and effort, but for their goodwill, good comradeship and concern for the welfare of the DNHG.

Our Next Speaker

An engineer by profession, Lamjed El-Kefi now runs a scuba diving business in Sharjah, and is able to make time for his many other interests.

In addition to being an award-winning underwater photographer, he is also an accomplished amateur astronomer and has previously lectured to the DNHG on Comet Hale-Bopp and on astronomy with a camera.

Born in Tunisia, Lamjed has lived and worked in the UAE since the 1980s. His presentation on April 1 will share his experiences with marine life as he has encountered it in the UAE and elsewhere during the past decade.



Botanical Bounty

On Friday March 2, Gary Feulner and Marijcke Jongbloed took a botanical trip to a side wadi of Wadi Bih, where Gary and John Martin had noticed a profusion of spring annuals some weeks before. They spent a full day in this (dry) wadi, from 10.30 am till 4.30 pm – walking only one kilometre “upstream” and then the same kilometre back along the adjoining hillside. In total 67 plants were collected while another 14 were not collected but recorded – and some may have been overlooked or forgotten. Besides many common and not-so-common annuals, there were several plants that will have to be added to the checklist at some later date.

Large numbers of beautifully flowering *Campanula erinus*, *Calendula arvensis*, *Oligomeris linifolia*, and *Scrophularia arguta* were literally everywhere. Rarities like the yellow flax *Linum corymbulosum*, *Kickxia hastata* and *K. ramosissima* as well as *Sedum hispanicum* and *Trigonella stellata* were also present.

Provisional identifications (from books) of some new plants are:

Valantia hispida L. (Fam. *Rubiaceae*), a small decumbent or erect annual with 4-angled stems and leaves in whorls, folded back along the stems.

Carduus pycnocephalus L. (Fam. *Compositae*), a thistle with a rosette of spineless soft leaves, and a central stem with viciously spined wings ascending about 40 cms. The inflorescence consisted of a group of four or five purple thistle flowers.

Astragalus corrugatus Bertol. (Fam. *Fabaceae*), a prostrate astragalus with yellow flowers and curved pods with a corrugated surface.

A small annual new to Marijcke

and Gary turned out to be *Asterolimon linum-stellatum*, already recorded once before by Ro Fitzgerald.

As yet unidentified and new were a species of *Kickxia*, two *Labiatae* that will probably be *Micromerias*, and a number of yellow composites – either *Launaeas* or *Picris* or maybe even *Scorzonera*.

All the plants will go for identification either to Egypt (Loutfy Boulos) or to Sweden (Mats Thulin)
Report by Marijcke Jongbloed

Urban Gordon's Wildcat

The breeding of Gordon's wildcats was started by Christian Gross after he mated a male from Dubai zoo with a female that he caught in the wild near Al Awir in 1985. One litter from this pair survived, while a second one perished. Then the old male died. From then on breeding was continued with the wild caught female and her son in one location and by a son and daughter in another location. This was not an ideal situation genetically. So in the spring of 1993 I made efforts to have another cat caught from the wild to enlarge the gene pool for breeding. On Easter Sunday 1993 Christian trapped a very young male, who took up residence in some new cages that had been constructed in the back of my garden. We wanted to wait mating him with the original wild caught female until the hot season was over. But before that could happen the young male managed to escape.

Several times since then I had seen a tabby that looked very much like a Gordon's wildcat but I never got a good look and the wildcats are so much like domestic tabbies, that you cannot tell for sure which is which unless you have a very long good look.

Recently that chance was given to me by accident. I was in bed with the 'flu and lay looking out of the

window. The view was of a low wall, about 2m away from me. Along the top of that wall walked a large tomcat. Right in front of me he sat down and proceeded to groom himself extensively. He then stood up to spray the branch of an overhanging tree, giving me a good view of his crown jewels. He took his time sniffing everything. All in all I had ten minutes or more to observe his every detail. There is no doubt in my mind that this is a Gordon's wildcat, and since it seems very unlikely that another should be in this neighbourhood I assume that it is the same cat that Christian caught 8 years ago. He seems confident of his place in this neighbourhood, and obviously has succeeded in finding food and water and avoiding killer dogs and municipal poison. I did have a fever then, but I have seen him several times since and this morning I saw what must be a hybrid offspring – very much like him but smaller, younger and less shy. *Report by Marijcke Jongbloed*

A New Cordia

Our February *Gazelle* reported on a straggling, cliff-dwelling plant in rugged Wadi Naqab that appeared to be a new record for the UAE, but couldn't be reached for collection. Barbara Couldrey wasted little time in enlisting fellow RAK member and rock climber Dee McEnery for a valiant mission in the interest of science. D-Day was February 15 and they succeeded in sampling two plants that turned out to be in fruit. Barbara says that one of the two, on a narrow ledge, was reached unaided; the other was difficult even with ropes.

Sample in hand, Marijcke Jongbloed was able at once to identify the small, acorn-like fruits as those of the genus *Cordia*. Three species of *Cordia* are known from the mountains of Saudi Arabia, and two from Oman. These range in size from large shrubs to substantial trees.



Field Clips ...

No *Cordia* is known from the UAE to date, but *Cordia myxa*, a large straight-trunked tree, can be found in the oasis at Sharm in Oman, north of Mahdhah, and a grove is also present in nearby Wadi Mayz, probably introduced by cultivation. John Martin opened and tasted the fruit of the unknown cliff dweller and confirmed that it has a relatively viscous fluid like that of *Cordia myxa* and a similar bland taste.

Further review of photographs in Collenette's *An Illustrated Guide to the Flowers of Saudi Arabia* indicates a close resemblance to Saudi's *Cordia sinensis*, also a cliff dweller and, apparently, first recognized from China. Marijke Jongbloed has undertaken to arrange for expert identification.

Among other things, the *Cordia* story is a good example of the cooperation that is often involved – and required – in the process of observation, collection and identification. This is one more justification, if any is needed, for maintaining a network of interested observers such as the DNHG. Thanks are due to all of those who contributed their time and special talents. *Report by Gary Feulner*

Desert Canals

Among the more anomalous sights to be seen in the Eastern Desert, SW of Al-Ain, are canals flowing westward into the desert. One such canal has existed for more than a decade just south of the town of Al Qa'a, the southernmost UAE town along the border with Oman. As early as 1992 this canal hosted a population of *Tilapia*. More recently a similar but larger canal has been excavated north of Qa'a. For much of its length it is some 4 metres wide and an estimated 6-7m deep, and it ends in the desert about 16km west of Qa'a, at an excavated and dammed "lake." Water levels in the canal deepen westward and

are estimated at more than 5m at the dam. Canal depth and water depth both shoal generally to the east, but in at least one area near the centre, water levels are shallow and the canal is fast flowing, with small rapids.

But where does the water come from? For the most part, it appears to be the natural drainage from the surrounding countryside, including particularly the mountains of Oman to the east. Inspection of topographic maps of the area makes it clear that the elongated sabkha and gravel flats in which the canals are cut are the extensions of watersheds flowing from the mountains. Indeed, it is probable that intermittent periods of increased precipitation in the past have helped to maintain the elongated flats in this area. The sediments underlying these flats are conduits for the flow of groundwater – underground rivers, in effect. When the area near the head of the northerly canal was visited in late December 2000, water could be seen seeping from the sides of the canal some two meters above the water level (which was shallow at that point). It is unknown how much this may have reflected runoff from rain in the area a couple of weeks before.

A dramatic natural manifestation of this same phenomenon is the Umm As-Samim area further south in Oman. This is the area of treacherous quicksand mentioned in the accounts of Wilfred Thesiger, but which he was never able to visit. It is demonstrably the inland collection area for a number of large watersheds draining westward from the Jebel Akhdar. It appears that the purpose of the Qa'a canals is to collect groundwater in a convenient, open environment for use in agriculture which, in the vicinity of Al Qa'a and Al Wigan, appears to have grown severalfold in less than a decade. Further expansion is clearly planned. Two side canals are already evident, one full and one awaiting completion. One disadvantage of canal

irrigation, however, is that it is much more susceptible to water loss by evaporation. In fact, a canal recharged by groundwater seepage effectively acts as a "chimney" for the evaporation of groundwater from the broader area. *Report by Gary Feulner*

The Winner! A Left-Handed Compliment

Finding the upside-down left hand print at the "Summer Palace" complex in Wadi Hayl has proved to be a surprisingly popular but resistant challenge. This account by an undisclosed but experienced explorer is typical: "Last weekend, I camped out in the old 'palace' in Wadi Hayl with my son. We had several inspections for handprints, especially at dawn when the light comes at a low angle. I counted 11 right hand handprints, but only 3 left hands. One is upright, and another is horizontal, high up on the south facing wall of the main tower of the palace, not the tower on the hill. If there is a true 'upside-down' print, none of us could find it. . . . As a true Doubting Thomas, I will have to see to believe the story of the upside-down one."

There were so many such reports that the Chairman, who issued the challenge, was beginning to wonder if he should doubt his own eyes. But now we have our first winner! Minie van de Weg of Fujairah, our speaker at the March 2000 Inter-Emirates Weekend in Fujairah, is one of those who was initially frustrated in her search. Minie is a longtime Fujairah resident and probably knows most of the other handprints and footprints in the area. And she is both observant and persistent. We don't know how many visits it took (those still looking can console themselves by supposing it was dozens) but in February Minie reported she'd FOUND it, and confirmed this by giving the correct location. So.... (over)



Dubai Natural History Group Recorders

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off 344 0462
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Archaeology - Robert Lovelace

res 342 0492
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Birds - David Snelling

res 3517187
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Seashells - Sandy Fowler

res 344 2243
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Astronomy - Lamjed El-Kefi

res 06-583 003
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Marine Life - Lamjed El-Kefi

Geology - Gary Feulner

res 306 5570
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Insects - Gary Feulner

Fossils - Valerie Chalmers

res 349 4016,
fax 398 3727

Plants - Valerie Chalmers

Mammals - Marijcke Jongbloed

res 349 7963
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mjongbld@emirates.net.ae

The recorders are not necessarily scientific experts in their fields. In fact, most are interested, knowledgeable amateurs - please contact them if you have any interesting reports or queries. The information will be channelled through to the *Gazelle* editor, so new information is shared with all our readers.

Not to spoil the fun for others, the location of the upside-down left hand print will not be revealed in the *Gazelle* until a later date. To Minie van de Weg, our congratulations and the Chairman's (virtual) gold doubloon. To everybody else, happy hunting.

Sykes' nightjar

ANOTHER new bird might join the fast-growing official UAE list with the discovery (yet to be officially confirmed) of a Sykes' nightjar at Dubai pivot fields, beside Al Awir sewage treatment plant. Dubai birder Paul Bourdouin, who has extensive overseas birding experience, spotted one at the fields on February 4, along with an Egyptian nightjar which until recently was a species also rarely reported from the UAE.

Quite possibly both have been regular visitors which remained unnoticed by the few birdwatchers here. Within days, Simon Aspinall and Peter Hellyer reported two more Sykes' nightjars at Al Wathba camel race track, near Abu Dhabi, along with no less than 16 Egyptian nightjars.

Paul laid mist nets to trap the Dubai bird and six local twitchers spent a frustrating evening trying to locate it - no luck! But with two independent sightings, there can be little doubt that it was a Sykes' nightjar, *Caprimulgus mahrrattensis*, resident in southern Iran opposite the Musandam, though it does not normally fly far. Plainish plumage and white spots below the tail are among the field marks, so check those nightjars carefully! *Report by David Snelling*

The Oates' favourites

Jill and Mike Oates, our previous bird recorders, recently wrote of happy times spent bird watching in Dubai. "The following are the birds and sites which stand out in our memories:

Khor Dubai with its flamingoes set against the skyscrapers of Dubai, the avocets which are seen there regularly and spotted eagles and ospreys.

Safa Park, our favourite, because it was so close and there was always something unusual - crowned cranes, redbreasted flycatchers, song thrushes etc.

Umm Al Quwain and the crab

plovers in winter.

The Wimpy pits where it is quite possible to see 60 different birds in a morning including 11 species of duck.

Ghantoot where we had to make three visits before we saw the scarce and shy *Hypercolius*.

Finally, Al Wathba camel track in Abu Dhabi where we regularly saw all the species of harrier, the short eared owl, and the Egyptian nightjar.

These are just some of many wonderful places which we hope other members will enjoy."

Bird Watch

Reminder: You can follow the action week-by-week in Twitchers' Guide, www.uaeinterac.com, and you can report to Twitchers' Guide via Simon Aspinall and Peter Hellyer at hellyer@emirates.net.ae or Colin Richardson at colinr@emirates.net.ae.

Sandy's shelling workshop

Would you like to start your own shell collection? Not sure where to begin? Come to a shelling workshop with Sandy Fowler.

Sandy, the seashells recorder for the Dubai Natural History Group, has amassed a huge collection of seashells from the beaches of the U.A.E. In February's *Gazelle* there was a report on his *Rough Sheller's Guide to the Northern Emirates* which is available to all members interested in this subject.

Sandy is planning a workshop, both for beginners seeking information about where to start and more experienced shellers having problems identifying their specimens. Younger enthusiasts are particularly welcome.

For more information on dates, times and signing up etc., contact Sandy Fowler by e.mail at shellman@37.com



Conservation Workshop on Leopard, Tahr, Oryx and Gazelle

Sharjah's Environment and Protected Areas Authority was host in February, for the second year in a row, to a regional workshop designed to produce a Conservation Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP) for endangered species. This year's workshop focused on the Arabian leopard and the three major surviving native Arabian ungulates – the Arabian tahr, Arabian oryx and gazelle. The conference was conducted in collaboration with experts from the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group and was held at Arabia's Wildlife Centre in Sharjah. Attendees included knowledgeable representatives of national, international and private institutions. Sponsors were BP Middle East and the Breeding Centre for Endangered Arabian Wildlife.

Working group discussions emphasised that the problems of endangered species are not all the same. For the Arabian leopard, human predation is by far the greatest threat. In a stark reminder, the conference heard that a female leopard was trapped and shot in the Wadi Bih area only a week or two before. For the Arabian oryx, Omani representatives announced that the poaching which had sabotaged Oman's captive release programme had been stopped since January 1999. For native gazelle populations generally, a major threat is posed by interbreeding with released non-native animals.

In the case of the Arabian leopard (and to a lesser extent the Arabian tahr), the lack of basic information is one of the stumbling blocks to designing effective conservation measures. Not only are numbers and range unknown, but so too are the basic habits and life cycles of the animals. However in the last two decades, the presence of

leopards has been reported throughout the entire mountain territory of the UAE and adjacent areas of Oman. An informative briefing book on each species was compiled by the Breeding Centre and has been made available to the DNHG.

Conference recommendations include the immediate formation of species-specific task forces in each country to gather, exchange and interpret data, and the identification of critical geographic areas for further study and/or protection. Representatives from ERWDA and Oman promised a joint survey of the Arabian tahr on Jebel Hafeet, to be completed before summer, followed by the development of a management plan within one year. Oman will proceed independently with plans to experiment with radio tracking of leopards, and Yemen hopes to host a conservation workshop that would include media and government representatives. *Report by Gary Feulner*

Natural History Exhibit In Abu Dhabi

During the last two months of 2000 Marijcke Jongbloed was involved in setting up a natural history exhibit at the Centre for Research and Documentation in Abu Dhabi. Some rooms in a portacabin on the Centre's grounds have been reserved for "Heritage" exhibits. These include exhibits of old maps, artifacts, coins, weapons and old photographs, an archeology exhibit, a copy of the Constitution of the UAE and a display of the Natural History collection of the Emirates Natural History Group (Abu Dhabi).

Even though quite a few items of the original Abu Dhabi natural history collection have not withstood the onslaught of several moves and inadequate curating, it is still quite extensive and only a selection of the material available has been used. In a room of approxi-

mately 5m x 6m, there are 9 large show cases dedicated to the following subjects: geology, marine life, mountain flora and fauna, creeks and mangroves, the sandy desert, plant and animal adaptations, animals as architects, traditional uses of flora and fauna, and environmental threats. An additional 4 smaller cases have collections of fossils, rocks and minerals, corals and sponges and shells.

Putting the exhibit together was great fun and could not have been accomplished without the help of many of the staff of the Centre, who brainstormed, gathered items, cleaned them, ran errands, printed photos, proofread and translated texts for labels and updated accompanying booklets.

The exhibit is meant mainly for education purposes, with schools and groups visiting by appointment (tel. 02-4445400). *Report by Marijcke Jongbloed*



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The New Dubai-Sharjah Ring Road

Driving north just became easier! This year the new ring road that bypasses downtown Dubai and Sharjah was opened. From Dubai, the new ring road can be accessed from the Al Awir Road, about 1km past Wimpey R/A. Turn left there, over the flyover. The ring road passes through the outskirts of Rashidia and through Mirdef and Mizhar as a three lane expressway and enters Sharjah in the outer industrial area. Keep going straight. You will intersect the Sharjah-Dhaid Road at Flyover no. 3, at the Falah military camp. This route is also a convenient shortcut to double back to the far side of Sharjah, allowing visits, for example, to the Sharjah Archaeological Museum and the Sharjah Science Museum without the has-

sle of the nightly commuter traffic from Dubai to Sharjah.

Khutwah Break-ins

Members of the ENHG in Al-Ain have reported at least a couple of instances of breaking and entering of vehicles parked at the terraced agricultural settlement of Khutwah, on the mountain front east of Al-Ain. Reportedly, a crowbar was used to pry open a door. Only money was taken. Khutwah is a lovely settlement but it has become increasingly popular since it was listed several years ago in a popular off-road guide. Even tour buses are reported now to stop there. Although it is listed in a UAE guide, Khutwah is in Oman. Visitors are strongly encouraged to report incidents of criminal activity to the Omani police at Buraimi. Another way to discourage such break-ins in the future is *not* to leave valuables, particularly

money, in your car.

Washed Out Wadi Tracks

Recent visitors report that the December and January rains left the wadi tracks in very poor condition in both Wadi Kida'ah and Wadi Naqab.

Dubai's Caged Birds

Judith Stafford had a busy month in the interest of animal welfare. At Nadd Al-Sheba roundabout she

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

GAZELLE

Dubai Natural History Group Programme

Lectures at Jumeirah English Speaking School, Gymnasium 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm

Apr 1 Stars Beneath the Sea: A Light & Sound Journey Underwater – Lamjed El-Kefi

May 6 Camels: The Almost Forgotten Miracle Animal – Dr. Ulrich Wernery

Jun 3 Members' Night

Field Trips (DNHG members only, please).

Mar 23 Wadi Bih with Peter van Amsterdam

Apr 5/6 Sir Bani Yas Island with David Snelling

Apr 19/20 Inter-Emirates Weekend in Al Ain (Book your accommodation now!)

Apr 27 Birdwatching at Al Wathba, Abu Dhabi, with David Snelling (Date to be confirmed)

Title Surname

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