

GAZELLE

Vol. 13 no.4 - April 1998



مجموعة دبي للتاريخ والطبيعي

DUBAI NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

PO Box 9234, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Members' News

We're sorry to have to announce that **Lex Nielsen** and **Glenice Aitken** will be leaving us in June to return to Australia. They have been active and supportive members since their arrival almost two years ago, and they have been kind enough to let us know that the DNHG was one of the things they enjoyed most about Dubai. The good news is that Lex expects to remain a business visitor from time to time. We hope he'll arrange his trips to include the first Sunday of the month.

It has been a banner Spring for UAE wildlife of all sorts, and especially for the common but striking orbweb spider (*Argiope* sp.) which can be found wherever a tree, shrub, rock or fence allows it to anchor a web.

Stephen and Paula Holloway report that *Argiope* webs were so thick last month in the wadi near Jebel Sumayni they had chosen for a hike, that they turned around and crossed another.

The gold doubleton has gone begging this month. No DNHG members have so far reported checking their flower beds and finding the newly recognized pigmy blue butterfly (*Brephidium* sp.) reported in last month's *Gazelle*. However, Chairman **Gary Feulner** (disqualified ineligible for the doubleton) has since found

it in reasonable abundance in beds of *Sesuvium verrucosum*, a known favorite, at the Dubai World Trade Centre and also in the camel husbandry area inland of the Nadd Al-Shiba race track, where it appeared to feed as well on flowering *Aelurus legocephalus* and *Chenopodium murale*.

Carolyn Lehmann, dedicated to the end, interrupted her packing and other departure logistics to note an unusual bloom of little blue butterflies in her garden, and to collect samples for further identification within this notoriously difficult group. Observations such as this may also give us a better understanding of the insect's habits, movements and population dynamics.

Thanks for your help

The editor would like to thank the following members, without whose editorial contributions this issue of *Gazelle* would have been 'nowt but empty pages':

Gary Feulner Beryl Comar
Sandy Fowler Ther. Bailey
Rod Fox

Why not send in your own contributions? e-mail helco@emirates.net.ae

Our Next Speakers

Our June Meeting is Member's Night, and our four speakers will be friends and neighbors, many of whom may need no introduction:

Colin Paskins is a keen malacologist, and we eagerly look forward to his talk on the *Cochus* family of gastropods.

Tony Johnston is a busy civil engineer out when he has a weekend free he and his wife Linda usually head for the great outdoors. They have travelled widely within the UAE and Oman.

Stephen Green is a recent arrival to Dubai but lived for many years in Bahrain and is the author of *Seashells of Bahrain*. In their short time in Dubai, he and his family have turned up more than their share of garden snails, snakes, and centipodes, as well as the UAE's first reported mollies and a new freshwater snail.

Diana Darke is an Arabist and author who has been in Dubai for the past three years. Among other things, she is the author of the recently published *Discovery Guide to the UAE*.



Field Trips

Ras Al-Hadd, Oman

Proposed, June ?:

Judith Stafford has inquired whether other members might be interested in a long June weekend trip to Ras Al-Hadd in Oman, the easternmost point on the Arabian Peninsula, famous as a sea turtle breeding site. The weather in June is hot, of course, but Ras-Al-Hadd is said to be swept by a steady tropical breeze. Judith has visited before and can answer questions. She would be willing to make basic arrangements to include a guided nighttime visit to the protected breeding area. There are also archeological sites and considerable other wildlife in the area. For more information, call Judith at 314216 (atc) or 376020 (res)

Note: In consideration of the Summer heat and the school vacation period, the DNHG field trip schedule will resume again in late September, probably with a birding trip to sample the Fall migration. However, watch your newsletter, as members may yet wish to initiate suitable Summer trips such as museum visits, morning beach-combing or fossiling, etc.

Natural History trip to Baluchistan

Gary Feulner is investigating the possibility of a natural history oriented jeep and hiking safari to Baluchistan, using a Pakistan adventure travel tour operator with whom he has personal experience.

Baluchistan is a difficult destination for a number of reasons, but it is of particular natural history interest since it shares floral and climatic affinities with eastern Arabia.

Normal dates for this itinerary are October and November, but it is possible that alternative spring dates would be preferable from a

natural history point of view. This will be investigated. The cost would be approximately \$700 plus round trip airfare to Pakistan, for an 8 or 9 day trip, including travel time. DNHG members who are particularly interested in such an opportunity (in the abstract at this point) are requested to contact Gary Feulner.

Our last speaker ...

Peter Rochfels' talk on stone arrowheads and tools in fact included a great deal more -- bronze implements, pottery and decorative linkets -- and exemplified the DNHG's goal of sharing and spreading both knowledge and enthusiasm.

His photos of the treasures that can be found in the shifting sands were enticing and made it all look easy. This will surely have many members spending more time in the field, but please keep in mind his injunctions to report significant finds and sites, and don't collect material simply to keep it in a dresser drawer.

Donkey Tales

Michel de Martigny reports a 'first', but a very sad one. Two feral donkeys were apparently shot by the roadside early last month along the graded track to Mahdah, leaving adolescent offspring. For the moment this should probably be regarded as an isolated incident, most likely perpetrated by some misguided town dwellers. Among rural residents, the shooting of a donkey is thought to be essentially unheard of, and more likely to contempt ridicule than acclaim. Additional reader input is solicited on this point.

Some local conservationists regard feral donkeys as a significant prob-

lem in the UAE, but total numbers are unknown. Although donkeys can sometimes be found deep in the mountains, numbers there are small and they appear to be concentrated instead in gravel plains areas relatively near to habitation or cultivation, where they are generally tolerated by the human population. This may give a distorted impression of their abundance.

Although donkeys do not appear ever to have been native to South Arabia, feral donkeys are not merely a product of the automotive era but were reported by Wilfried Thiesler in the late 1940s. Moreover, their close relatives have until recent times inhabited the stony deserts of Syria and the Sudan, so they are in a sense somewhat 'pre-adapted' to life in the UAE.

From time to time proposals have been mooted to cull the local donkey population, both for the sake of the environment generally and to prevent the development or spread of possible equine diseases. These proposals, however, seem so far to be based more on an absence of evidence and on the donkey's status as an 'alien' (albeit an innocent one) without a local constituency, rather than on positive evidence of harm. It is difficult to imagine that grazing by donkeys can be as great a problem as grazing by the far more abundant: camels and goats.

It would be an interesting exercise to attempt an estimate of donkey numbers and their environmental impact. It would be an equally interesting exercise to attempt to study whether and to what extent these animals are capable of recreating their traditional social structure in the wild in the UAE.

Report by Gary Feulner





A New Wadi Snail

Only two types of freshwater snails have so far been recognized to occur in the wadis of the UAE. Both of them are relatively widespread, not only in the UAE but also in Arabia. Only three additional species are known from nearby Northern Oman and thus ready candidates for occurrence in the UAE. So it was with some surprise that Stephen Green, in his first wadi outing since arriving from Bahrain, discovered near Hatta a freshwater snail different from any previously reported from this area.

The new snail has the form of a "ramshorn" snail, i.e., its shell is a flat coil resembling a coil of rope. However, in contrast to most European ramshorns, the aperture is oblique to the direction of coiling, not perpendicular, and so the shell is not carried erect, but more horizontally. Specimens have been sent to the British Museum for definitive identification.

The new snail was relatively common in the wadi that was investigated. One factor that may explain why it has been overlooked for so long is its small size – the largest were only about 3mm. Another factor is undoubtedly its habitat – it was found only on the underside of larger stream cobbles in isolated still, shallow pools within the rocky wadi. *Report by Gary Feulner*

And a New Wadi Fish

A field team from the new Breeding Centre for Endangered Arabian Wildlife has collected specimens of an unusual fish from a wadi near Hatta, where it was first observed last Fall by Gary Feulner and Barbara Couldrey. The fish has been identified as a member of the goby family, but it is unknown to experienced naturalists in the UAE and Oman and does not seem to have been reported in the limited literature on freshwater fish of Arabia. This is a significant discovery,

since only three species of fish are otherwise known to occur naturally in the wadis of the Hajar Mountains.

Most gobies are marine fish and the family is represented worldwide. Within Arabia, other gobies have occasionally been reported from freshwater environments in coastal regions, but the Hatta goby is found more than 30 km inland and is distributed over several kilometers of a major mountain wadi subject to extremes of both flooding and drought. *Report by Gary Feulner*

Viper Eats Toad

I had to leap over a carpet viper last month in order to complete a late afternoon return down a somewhat overgrown wadi near Lawyan in Fujairah. Safely past, I stopped for a better look and saw that the snake was otherwise occupied, with a lump in its throat and two toad legs sticking out of its mouth. I had read many years ago that a snake, once it begins swallowing its prey, cannot regurgitate so I closed in for a photograph -- taking one for the DNHG photo reference collection as well.

Although most toads are avoided by most predators, who find them unpalatable, my own observation is only the latest of several similar reports over the years, and to the best of my knowledge no one has seen a viper in the Hajar Mountains eating anything else. In view of the relative abundance of toads, the relative scarcity of other potential prey, and the fact that vipers are most often encountered in wadi beds near small pools, it is reasonable to speculate that wadi toads may actually form a significant part of the diet of our local vipers. *Report by Gary Feulner*

Rare Moments - A Birder's Report

An undistinguished start to the migration season made me feel that millions of migrants had re-routed

without anyone telling me. A resplendent male rockthrush showing off at Al-Mamzar provided me with some solace as did a sky full of European bee-eater making their highly distinctive 'quip-quip' liquid call at Saffa Park. I missed the nightingales but caught up with chiff-chaff, male and female redstart and a lesser-great grey shrike out at Jebel Ali. Just where were the woodchat shrike?

My fortunes were destined to improve, as on a visit to Khor Dubai at around 0915 on May 1, I became intrigued by an unusual bird standing onshore. It was a large, long-legged, long-necked bird with a reddish brown face, a long bright yellow bill, a white back, a black tail and reddish legs. Some kind of stork, but not a white stork, a bird I had become fairly familiar with after birching in Lesbos. Further scanning of the area produced two more identical birds. I returned after a couple of hours having consulted various birdbooks still none-the-wiser and felt that those unusual birds could be wood ibis.

I left a message for Colin Richardson and he contacted me after a visit to the Creek next day, equally intrigued by these sightings which he identified as yellow-billed stork. He added 2 more birds to make a total of 5.

Later on that same day, I pulled off the road leading from the Creek roundabout to the Sheikh Zayed road. An area of scrub land looked like a potentially interesting habitat and within a few minutes I saw numerous common birds: grey heron, great-grey shrike, Indian silverbills etc. Then, quite by chance, I disturbed a breeding crested lark, the nest with three eggs typically hidden in a tussock. I decided to take a photograph and to my great surprise, an egg cracked open at the very same time - a rare moment indeed.

Meanwhile it's back to a fairly pedestrian track record, the usual but still interesting commonplace birds both resident and migrant; white-cheeked bulbul nesting in the bauginvi laes at work, olivaceous warbler and



Grand Canyon of Wadi Sharm

Friday, April 24

Who says a field trip has to be dull? This trip was billed as an easy wadi walk deep in the Hajar Mountains, and it was easy up to a point, but that point was about 150 meters from the cars, when it became clear that the wadi was sufficiently "wet" that it would be impossible to proceed without getting our feet wet. Ascending slowly, we took note of many typical denizens -- the wading, various dragonflies, some characteristic plants, numerous toads and tadpoles, and a single waterbug (which resembles a very large water scorpion without a tail).

Enroute we passed about a dozen small, temporary stone dams, used by mountain residents to channel rain into weirs. Observers have remarked that this method is remarkably effective, which probably accounts for the anomalous absence of adult fish seen in the wadi. At our turnaround point, after a close out educational encounter with a mountain viper, we climbed to the terrace for an overview of the wadi and especially its upper reaches, where the collapse of the north bank resulted in a half-kilometer boulder field.

After a late lunch at the cars, we walked a short distance to a tributary to see the attractive gorge of Wadi Mayz, a long, narrow channel cut deep into cemented gravel. No one was heard to complain that occasional rock climbing did not fall within the definition of an "easy walk."

Scattered thunderstorms could be seen and heard all around us and we kept a cautious eye on the head of our own watershed. Finally, as we began our return to the cars, rain began to fall on us and we beat a hasty retreat, slowed only momentarily by Kristina's encounter with second viper and the loss of another participant into an otherwise

pristine pool.

Nevertheless, by the time we reached the cars the heavens had opened and we piled in, soaking wet, in order to make a safe exit before the waters rose. Windscreens logged as we splashed our way out, only to have the Chairman's car start enroute.

Attempts at a quick fix were unsuccessful and the car had to be towed to safety up a steep, rough track. The sun graciously shone again as the passengers exited to ease the difficult ascent, whereupon the heavens opened once more and thoroughly soaked them all. The top was reached thanks to some persistent and imaginative towing by Michel de Marigny, whereupon a loose wire was located, reconnected and dried, courtesy of Peter Payne and all vehicles were in order once again.

The chairman then suggested an alternative exit route, said to be more interesting, and it was. At the Wadi Sharm crossing on the graded road to Mahohai, the stream was some 160 meters wide, and local vehicles were lined up on the far side to watch the action. Downstream, a 4WD was listing in soft grave with the water approaching window level. After observing all this for a while, we returned whence we had come, only to find that the waters had risen behind us as well.

A safe crossing was in question, but Mike Lorrigan checked the track on foot through knee-deep water, and the vehicles had only a few tense moments as they tacked sideways through soft gravel in mid-stream. Not so lucky was a large sedan of confident local youths, who were swept off the track and floated downstream, only to emerge, miraculously and in reverse, a hundred meters down.

Safe for the moment, there was

unanimous agreement to return briefly to view the Grand Canyon where we had so recently walked. Brown muddy water had risen at least two feet to create a fair imitation of its namesake this within an hour of our safe departure. With the sun setting, we at last headed north toward home, not without trepidation since there remained two major wadis to cross, but here we learned another interesting lesson. The thunderstorms, while obviously potent, were highly localized, and the wadis to the north were empty. The Dubai skyline, when we saw it an hour and a half later, was welcoming but seemed rather tame.

Coastal Environments Friday, May 1

Dr. Richard Herby is a professional biologist who has conducted a survey of some 800 km of UAE coastline. He is also the Chairman of the Emirates Natural History Group in Abu Dhabi and his guided tour of the intertidal zone at Ras Ghantoot, conducted jointly with the ENHG, was well worth waiting for. The May 1st field trip date raised legitimate advance concern about the possibility of high heat and discomfort, but in fact we were treated to only moderate heat and a steady sea breeze, and almost never broke a sweat.

Under Dick's tutelage, eager participants left no stone unturned (almost literally) as they uncovered snapping shrimp, sea squirts, sea slugs, sea anemones, cuttlefish eggs, chitons, limpets, a variety of colorful sponges, other seashells, and starfish (including a perfect but aberrant four-pointed star).

Honorable mention goes to Stephen and Christine Turner for finding a large mantis shrimp, possibly the most lively find of the day. One small but unusual gastropod, found alive, initially



New Recorders

In an effort to revitalize our recording system and to fill some existing vacancies, the committee has appointed several new recorders. The current list is as follows:

Archeology - Diana Darke
 Astronomy - Lamjed El-Kefi
 Birds - Jim Footitt (res 358 134, off 365 665, fax 365 667)
 Geology - Gary Feulner (res 308 5570, off 313 320, fax 313 371)
 Fossils - Valerie Chalmers (res 404 816, fax 452 727)
 Insects - Gary Feulner (see above)
 Mammals - Marijcke Jongbloed (off 311 411, fax 311 000)
 Marine Life - Lamjed El-Kefi
 Plants - Valerie Chalmers (see above)
 Reptiles - open
 Seashells - Sandy Fowler (res 442 242, fax 442 242)

The recorders are not necessarily scientific experts in their designated fields. In fact, most are not. However, they are interested and knowledgeable amateurs and they have agreed to undertake certain responsibilities as follows:

- (1) To be available to DNHG members and others to receive information and to try to assist with identifications and other inquiries.
- (2) To maintain organized records of U.A.E. wildlife and other natural phenomena for the benefit of members and other interested amateurs and professionals.
- (3) To maintain contact with experts and with relevant developments so that they can better perform their responsibilities.
- (4) To report to the membership periodically, at meetings or through the *Gazette*, on significant observations and other matters of interest in their designated fields.

Your responsibility to the recorders

is to share your information and questions with them. This benefits current members, but it is an even greater benefit to future members and students of UAE wildlife and the environment by creating an accessible body of data that can serve as a basis for further investigation or analysis.

Seashells Share your shelling

I took over as sea-shell recorder 2 months ago, and waited for people to phone, write, fax and e-mail me with their various news and finds. I'm still waiting. The group can't fulfil part of its function - the recording of the flora and fauna of the U.A.E. - if people don't talk to each other. I can appreciate that sea-shell collectors want to 'guard' their favourite beaches in case others descend and clean up all the best shells, but really, there are enough shells for everyone, so come on folks and talk to me!

The northern beaches were particularly good during February and March, especially with the Nautilus coming in. Shells generally were of specimen size and colour, with *architectonidae*, cowries (*grayana* and *winckwarthi* especially) and *conus* plentiful. Ram's beach went bare in April, but was looking quite good last weekend. *Grayana* were again abundant, although many were bleached, and I noted several intact *ficus subintermedia* specimens.

In the past few weeks, the beaches I normally check out well south of Jebel Ali hotel have yielded plentiful supplies of *Conus textile* and *Chlamys* species, while the little beach opposite the sheikh's black palace on the way to DOSC has given me five specimens of *Sunetta effusa*, *Geri maculosa*, *Calyptrea edgariana*, *Callista floride* and a new finding (for me) of *Donax erythraeensis* in the past few weeks.

I am more than happy to share my findings and locate my favourite beaches to fellow shellers, but want some feedback in return. Only in this way can we build up a picture of the seasonal variation of the presence and absence of shells, and perhaps from this gain some insight into their breeding habits, tidal movements and relationship to the changing seasons.

Report received by e-mail from Dr. Sandy Fowler

Geology Responsible Collecting

Both the local and international press have recently featured the discovery in Italy of a young carnivorous dinosaur so well preserved that some of the internal organs can be studied. This is a first of its kind. What the press did not dwell on is that this specimen had sat -- unknown and unstudied -- in the hands of an amateur 'collector' for as much as a decade. A nice knack, perhaps, but a great loss to human understanding. No doubt the collector meant no harm, but the result was nevertheless totally irresponsible. He has explained that he didn't know it was a dinosaur; he thought it was a bird. This only compounds the irresponsibility, since reasonably complete fossils of Mesozoic birds probably number fewer than 100 worldwide.

Fossils, archeological remains and certain living creatures are one-of-a-kind, or nearly so. The responsible collector has a duty to ensure that rare or unusual specimens are brought to the attention of experts. If in doubt, experts should be consulted to determine whether or not the specimens are rare or unusual. And if the collector doesn't know what he's got, and doesn't care, then he shouldn't be collecting it. Unfortunately, the Italian dinosaur is only the latest of many similar incidents. Last year marked the



Snake Bite Warning

Dr. Ulli Wernery of the Central Veterinary Research Laboratory has alerted us to a recent and serious snake bite incident. A 40-year old man was bitten on the foot by a suspected sawscale viper in the Al-Ain area while stepping out of a wadi pool onto adjacent gravel.

Pain developed comparable to that caused by a needle. He walked to the car (10 minutes away) and was driven to a hospital in Al-Ain, which took one hour. Unfortunately, based on erroneous reasoning that there are only non-poisonous and semi-poisonous snakes in the area, no antivenom was administered only drugs against swelling and pain.

The victim was returned to Dubai, keeping his leg elevated. Swelling continued and reached the upper leg. By midnight it was decided to consult a hospital in Dubai, and the victim found that movement brought on vomiting a cold sweat and dizziness. The victim had to crawl as the pain was unbearable in an upright position.

Emergency room tests in Dubai showed poor blood clotting and low blood pressure. Specialists were consulted and an antivenom was administered. This improved blood pressure and the cold sweat disappeared. However, the swelling increased slightly and the leg discoloured turning purple and yellow.

The patient remained in the hospital for four days, during which the leg could neither be touched nor moved, as it was very painful. The swelling reduced slightly, antibiotics were administered in case the fangs had infected the leg, and the patient was discharged but rested at home for another four days with his leg up. Only then could he begin to move, again on all fours to minimize pain.

Only after twelve days could he

begin to take a few steps in an upright position, and the leg would still turn blue quickly in that position. Finally, after sixteen days, he was able to walk around satisfactorily for longer periods, but still needed to rest and put the leg up after being upright for too long. At that point, the discoloration was nearly gone.

Dr. Wernery points out that the above symptoms -- swelling, pain, discoloration, slow clotting, and vomiting -- are consistent with the bite of a sawscale viper (*Echis carinatus*). This snake and its close relative, the carpet viper (*E. oxardanus*), are present in modest numbers in rocky areas of the UAE and Oman, including the mountains, foothills and gravel plains. Observers agree that they have been more common during the current winter and spring, presumably as a result of heavier rains. Both vipers are relatively small (seldom much more than 2 feet in length) but their venom is considered to be very potent.

Like most snakes, they are not reckoned to be aggressive, but they may strike if they feel threatened or are surprised. If disturbed, they may make a hissing sound as a warning by rubbing their scales together. Although they are primarily nocturnal hunters, they may also be active by day.

They are most often encountered by hikers or picnickers on gravel near small pools of water, especially in shade or in late afternoon. Their mottled coloration matches that of wadi gravels very well, so they are not always easy to see. Unlike the very long thin wadi racer, the local vipers are reluctant to swim, but one reason for their

New Breeding Centre for Endangered Arabian Wildlife

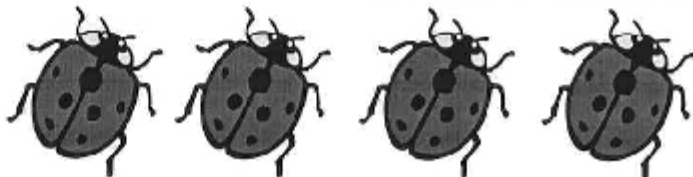
As announced at our April meeting by Dr. Marijcke Jongbloed, the new Breeding Centre for Endangered Arabian Wildlife held a morning's "open house" in April in advance of its formal inauguration. The Breeding Centre has been advertised as a state-of-the-art facility, and that is what it appears to be.

While public attention has focused on species with the broadest appeal -- such as the Arabian Leopard, Gordan's wildcat, the Ethiopian hedgehog and the Arabian gazelle -- the Breeding Centre is home to a full range of Arabian wildlife, including wadi fish, toads, butterflies, lizards, snakes, gerbils, jirds and jerboas.

It was a pleasure to see so much of our local wildlife accessible in one place, and well looked after -- each group of animals has its own expert handler (provided by Animal Management Consultants) and lives in clean, spacious and attractively landscaped surroundings.

The Breeding Centre is not intended to be open to the general public, but it is expected to work closely with the Sharjah Zoo that is scheduled for completion in 1999. The Zoo, like the Breeding Centre, will be located adjacent to the Sharjah Natural History Museum and Desert Park at inter-section no. 8 on the Sharjah Dhaid road.

If the Breeding Centre is any indication, we have a real treat in store for us when the zoo opens -- and a valuable research and educational resource as well. His Highness Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al-





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Paper Nautilus Update

I am grateful to Maria Larkworthy for correcting my article in February's edition of *Gazelle*. I wrote "There are two types of Paper Nautilus: *Argonauta hians* and *Argonauta argo*." This may have misled some readers into thinking there are only two types worldwide. In fact, according to *Compendium of Seashells*, R. Tucker Abbott & S. Peter Dance, there are five sub-species of the family *Argonautidae* including:

Argonauta argo Linnaeus, 1758
Common Paper nautilus - Warm worldwide seas
Argonauta nodosa Lightfoot: 1786
Nodose Paper Nautilus - Indo-Pacific
Argonauta hians Lightfoot 1788
Brown Paper Nautilus - Warm Pacific and Atlantic oceanic seas
Argonauta nuxyi Lucas 1852

Noury's Paper Nautilus - Baja California to Peru
Argonauta grunerii Dunker 1852
Gruener's Paper Nautilus - South Western Pacific
Report e-mailed by Beryl Comar

'Nature Bus' launched

The Environmental Research and Wildlife Development Agency's 'Nature Bus' has hit the road to launch the agency's environmental awareness programme. The eye-catching bus will be used to transport environmental educators around the Emirates.

The beautiful and colourful scenes on the sides of the bus depict the UAE's marine, desert, and mangrove habitats and wildlife which symbolise the Agency's commitment to terrestrial and marine research and conservation. Animals such as the houbara bustard, hare, turtle and dugong, for which the

Agency has started programmes, are highlighted.

The pilot teaching programme will run in primary schools, for 9-10 year olds, before the schools break up for the summer and further programmes and teaching materials will be prepared over the summer ready for the new academic year.

Each teaching programme will use an experiential approach, involving games and audio-visual materials, to try to explain and excite pupils about environmental issues. Assistance has also been gained from the Union National Bank (UNB) who have donated 2,400 copies of their children's book '50 Simple Ways to Help the UAE Environment' for distribution to all students participating in the programme. It is planned that the contents of the book will be converted into a teaching programme.

GAZELLE

Dubai Natural History Group Program

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

- June 7: Members' Night featuring:
'Cone Shells of the Arabian Gulf' by Colin Paskins
'Journey into the Mountains of the Musandam' by Tony Johnston
'Land Snails of Dubai' by Stephen Green
'Archeological sites in the UAE' by Diana Darke
- September 13: To be announced

Field Trips - further details inside (DNHG members only, please)

- June ??: **Proposed trip to Ras Al Hadd, Oman**
Arabia's easternmost point, a world famous wildlife site

from: **D.N.H.G.**
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