

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE LITERATURE

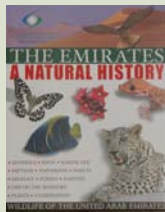
## PODOCES



PODOCES publishes original articles in the field of faunal surveys, taxonomy and identification, species distribution, populations, habitat studies, IBAs, ringing and migration, breeding biology, feeding ecology, ethology, physiology, genetics, biochemistry, diseases and parasites, ecological relationships, environmental pollution, and conservation of birds and their habitats. For information contact Dr A. Khaleghizadeh, PO Box 1143, Karaj 31585, Iran, e-mail. akhaleghizadeh@yahoo.com

### Book Review - The Emirates – A Natural History

Published by Trident Press. Editors: Peter Hellyer and Simon Aspinall. Sponsored by the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi. Cost – 131 \$US. ISBN 1-905486-02-2



The newly published 'The Emirates – A Natural History', is currently the most comprehensive reference book on the entire range of wildlife in the UAE. The book is divided into four main sections, entitled; 'Discovery, Geology, Habitats and Wildlife' and it will appeal to both the keen amateur natural historian, or professional scientific researcher. The editors, Peter Hellyer and Simon Aspinall, have done a good job at getting contributions from 34 authors, and the 580 stunning captioned photographs and over 50 other illustrations of UAE animals and plants, make the book a real pleasure to read. For those who need scientific information, there are up-to-date species checklists and a scientific index that lists over 3100 species. In addition, the book contains detailed references for each chapter and a comprehensive bibliography on UAE wildlife. Certainly, whether your interest lies in searching for ancient fossils, hiking through mountain wadis, identifying birds in your garden, exploring underground caves, beach combing along the shore, snorkeling in the shallows, SCUBA diving over coral reefs, or fishing from a boat, this book will provide information to enhance your pleasure of these activities. For further information contact: Environment Agency- Abu Dhabi, PO Box 45553, Abu Dhabi, UAE, Website: www.ead.ae

### Amer, K.M. et al. (eds) (2006) Policy Perspectives for Ecosystem and Water Management in the Arabian Peninsula. UNESCO & UNU, Doha and Ontario. 171p.



The water crisis is one of the most critical challenges facing the world today and is particularly important for the countries of the Arabian Peninsula. Sustainable development in the region requires the formulation of principles for effective and equitable water resource management practices that also fully conserve various ecosystems. Such practices are the focus of this book which also presents guidelines developed by a multi-disciplinary group of experts from the region. Contact: Dr. B. Böer b.boer@unesco.org

### Wilms, T.M.& Schmitz, A. (2007) A new polytypic species of the genus *Uromastix* MERREU 1820 from southwestern Arabia. Zootaxa 1394: 1-23.



*Uromastix* sp. © Tom Bailey

We describe *Uromastix yemenensis* sp. nov. from south-western Arabia, comprising two geographic subspecies, *U. y. yemenensis* and *U. y. shobraki* ssp. nov. The new species is a member of the *Uromastix ocellata* species group, closely related to *U. benti*. It is differentiated from its sister taxon by smaller scales around midbody and smaller ventrals. The new species is restricted to the extreme south-western tip of the Arabian Peninsula. The western populations of *U. yemenensis* differ genetically and are constantly distinct in respect to their colour pattern and are therefore recognized as a subspecies.

### Murdoch et al. (2007) Rüppell's foxes in Al Dhafra, United Arab Emirates. Canid News 10:1 [online]:[http://www.canids.org/canidnews/10/ruppells\\_foxes\\_in\\_UAE.pdf](http://www.canids.org/canidnews/10/ruppells_foxes_in_UAE.pdf).



Dr Chris Drew, formerly EAAD, weighing a Rüppell's fox in the field ©Tom Bailey.

Here we provide a new record of Rüppell's fox *Vulpes rueppellii* in the Al Dhafra region of southwestern Abu Dhabi Emirate, United Arab Emirates (UAE). The presence of foxes in Al Dhafra represents an extension in the recognized range of the species within UAE.

### Obon, E. et al. (2007) Establishment of an avian monitoring health scheme in the United Arab Emirates using wild mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*). Proc. European Assoc. Avian Veterinarians. Pp 428-432.

Wild waterfowl have been widely recognized as carriers of numerous avian pathogens. This, in conjunction with the fact that they interact with captive waterfowl during feeding obviates the potential threat of disease introduction into closed populations. A surveillance programme was carried out in the lakes of Wadi al Safa Wildlife Centre, Dubai, UAE, using migrating wild mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*). Thirty apparently healthy mallards were trapped, and the presence of various avian pathogens was investigated.

**Editors note: Pdfs of some papers available for download at [wmenews.com](http://wmenews.com).**