

Friends of A Rocha Lebanon
Newsletter number 3
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Summer at Aammiq wetland

Dear friends,
I am writing this letter to the sound of steady rain enlarging the puddles outside the window. No, I am not in Lebanon – but in Norfolk England, catching up with supporters and family while Martin & Lodi keep the project running in the heat of the Bekaa.

The Education Programme

With the summer temperatures the number of groups going through the education programme at Aammiq has dropped to a trickle, but in the spring and early summer we had the usual flood! With the marsh at its most stunning more than 1500 school children and college students caught tadpoles, identified birds, drew insects and generally experienced something of the glories of creation to be found in the West Bekaa. A typical visit saw Lodi giving an informative presentation about the wetland and its conservation, in our classroom at Houch Aammiq, followed by fieldwork in the marsh or on the hillsides above.



The Team

In the last letter I introduced Simon Helou as our new scientific officer. Unfortunately he has decided to focus his efforts in Beirut rather than the Bekaa, and so left us in June. The good news is that we have found two replacements, Colin and Richard, who hope to join us in the new year, funding permitting. We are still looking for a church liaison officer to work in the Bekaa and Beirut. If you know someone who is interested we are receiving applications until mid September. We will also be welcoming Marius Teeuw, from Holland, as a volunteer for a year who will be involved in our scientific studies including helping us put much of our data base into GIS format, a powerful tool for the conservation of habitats.



Eastern Mazarine Blue



Blue Spot Haistreak



Long Tailed Blue

Your Chance to visit the A Rocha Project and Aammiq wetland



On Saturday 30th October we are hosting the Friends of A Rocha Lebanon open day at Aammiq and Aana, West Bekaa. Starting at 10:00 am at Houch Aammiq you can join us to discover the wonders of the wetland and learn about the efforts to conserve it.

The day will include:

- A slide show highlighting the wildlife of the area and the importance of the wetland. Coffee provided.
- A guided walk around the wetland with the possibility of seeing migrating birds such as buzzards, Eagles, kites and many smaller song birds (binoculars available for loan).
- A chance to see the A Rocha centre in the nearby village of Aana where you will be able to eat your picnic lunch. (Please bring your own lunch)

Charge 10000LL per adult, 5000 per child
(50% of the charge goes directly to the conservation of the wetland, 50% goes towards covering A Rocha's costs)

Places are limited to 30

If you would like to come please book by contacting Chris Naylor at arocha@cyberia.net.lb Travel directions available if needed.



Lesser Spotted Eagle

With best wishes,

Chris Naylor and the team.



A ROCHA

Together, caring for God's creation

www.arocha.org