



Dear Friends,

It has been a while since we sent out our last newsletter and as we sent it on the day the war started we quite understand how a number of people "missed it." For those that did not get, or do not remember getting newsletter number 10 here is a repeat of its most important news:

5 new Important Bird Areas (IBAs) declared in Lebanon!!!

We are delighted to announce that 4 of the sites surveyed in 2005 by A Rocha, plus a fifth location researched by our IBA search partner SPNL, have been awarded IBA status by Birdlife International regional office in Amman. This increases the number of IBAs in Lebanon from 4 to 9 sites. The new IBAs are at Ebel es Saqi, Tannourine Cedars, Aanjar/Kfar Zabad, Riim/Sannine and Lake Qaraaoun.

So what happened to A Rocha during the summer and then the war?

Travels, more travel and evacuation!

Chris was busy in the U.S.A. and Canada (see below) and then on return, after the outbreak of the war, the team evacuated for varying periods of time to Syria, Jordan, Cyprus, England and France. As for so many, the work of A Rocha Lebanon was severely affected by the war. Late summer and autumn field work for the Important Bird Area programme was impossible, community training and launching events were cancelled and regular monitoring work at Aammiq suspended.

Goodbye to Rich and Veronique

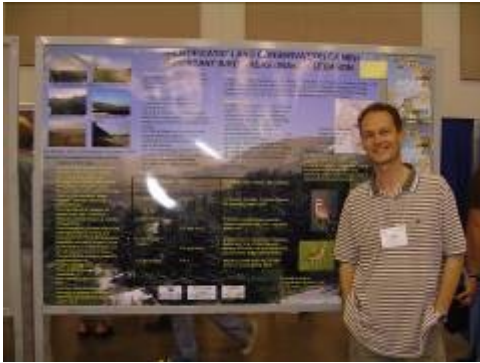
Rich and Veronique were due to finish their work with us in the autumn; the war brought that departure earlier and under more unusual circumstances! They are now settling back to their lives in France. We wish them every blessing and are grateful for all they brought to the project. They will both be greatly missed.

What next?

Chris, Susanna and Mary from Beirut, and Colin (currently from UK - he returns to Lebanon in early January) are working hard to catch up on all the opportunities through the Important Bird programme and of course at Aammiq. As well as conservation of the Aammiq wetland we are working with local and national partners to develop an exciting visitor and eco tourism project at Aammiq.

— **All will be revealed next time!**

What was A Rocha Lebanon doing in the U.S and Canada?



Chris went to the States to present our "Important Bird Area project" work at the 20th annual Conference of the Society for Conservation Biology in San Jose, California. As it was such a great opportunity (and such a long way to go!) he took some time to connect with A Rocha U.S.A. and A Rocha Canada, sharing with many groups something of the work we are doing in Lebanon. As well as extending the "friends of A Rocha Lebanon" network to North America it was a

privilege to join with communities exploring ways for them to apply stewardship concepts in their own distinct contexts. It was also a wonderful opportunity to stay at the A Rocha Canada centre, enjoy the Canadian trees (they really are so big!) and learn from the team in their strategic work just outside Vancouver. If you are ever near Vancouver pay them a visit it is an awesome place and a remarkable team (check it out on the web www.arocha.org)



Opportunities

We are looking for 2 or possibly 3 new members of the A Rocha Lebanon team; Education Officer and Warden of the A Rocha Lebanon Field Studies Centre in the West Bekaa, and a Scientific Officer. If you are in sympathy with A Rocha Lebanon's aims and would like to find out more about what is involved and a job description write to Chris Naylor at arocha@cyberia.net.lb

Thanks for reading our newsletter to the end. Don't forget our website: www.arocha.org as we have completely updated our pages, and if you have any questions or need more information please write to us on: foarl.arocha@cyberia.net.lb

Best wishes,

The A Rocha Lebanon team



A ROCHA

Together, caring for God's creation