



Aammiq in the spring

Dear friends,

I hope this up date from the A Rocha Lebanon project finds you enjoying the wonders of spring! The countryside seems in full bloom and even over Beirut the migrating birds are passing over head.



New Staff ... Meet Ramsey



1. **Can you tell us a little about yourself?**

My name is Ramsey Rahal, and I am 32 years of age. I am a graphic designer by trade, but have worked in various types of jobs while I was in Canada. I hold both Lebanese and Canadian citizenships, born and raised in Toronto Canada. My parents are both Lebanese, who fled their country just before the civil war started in Lebanon. I have always dreamed of moving back to my beloved country of origin, and that dream finally came true! I have now been happily living here with my wife Samia since the fall of 2005.

2. **What exactly do you do at A Rocha Lebanon?**

Currently, I am serving as a Director's Assistant where I help manage the Aammiq Wetland. I am responsible for booking and receiving group visits to the wetland and am also involved in the educational program.

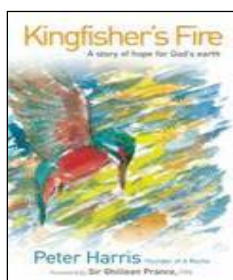
3. **In general, which part of A Rocha's work interests you most?**

The most interesting part of my work is my daily exposure to the environmental, conservational, scientific and community work that A Rocha Lebanon is so deeply involved in. From an early age, I have always been fascinated by God's creation. I have always loved the outdoors, and watched every nature documentary that I could. Now I can hardly believe that I am working in this field which has captivated my interest since as far as I can remember.

4. **Is your work at A Rocha different from other work you did before? If so, how?**

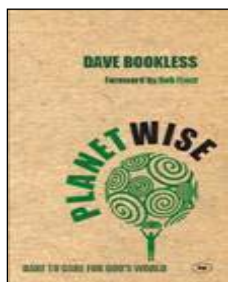
Although I am utilizing certain skills and performing tasks similar to previous job experiences, working for A Rocha Lebanon is certainly a very unique experience. Everyday I am learning new things about nature and the environment, and feel I am playing a part in preserving God's creation. It is also a joy to be working in such a great team!

Two new A Rocha books:



Kingfisher's Fire – a story of hope for God's earth by A Rocha's President, Peter Harris, tells the story of the last ten years, during which A Rocha has grown from one field study centre in Portugal to a family of national organizations in eighteen countries. Peter vividly blends humorous accounts of his own visits to the new teams with explanations for the distinctive Christian basis of the projects. To read an excerpt, see [A Rocha International News](#) February 2008.

Available from: www.lionhudson.com Price £7.99 (pound sterling = 16 \$). Paperback, 221 pp, 35 colour photos. ISBN 978 1 85424 848 0. It will be published in the USA in August 2008



Planetwise: Dare to care for God's world by Dave Bookless, founder and National Director of A Rocha UK, is in two sections. The first is a clear and concise formation of creation care theology and the second part suggests ways in which a proper understanding of the biblical Teaching about the natural world can influence discipleship, worship, lifestyle and mission. **Available from:** www.ivpbooks.com Price £7.99 (pound sterling = 16 \$). Paperback, 160 pp. ISBN 1844742512.

(If you have any difficulties ordering these books, please contact us)

Special Species for March: Swallowtail butterfly *Papilio machaon*

Spring has just started here in Lebanon and with it the arrival of butterflies for the first time this year. The Swallowtail *Papilio machaon* is one of the first butterflies of the year to emerge and it has already been seen in the mountains north of Beirut this year. The range of this species is from North Africa across Europe, the Arabian Peninsula and temperate Asia to Japan. It is a large yellow butterfly with a pattern of black veins, and both fore and hindwings are edged with a thick band of blue. It has a forked tail giving the Swallowtail its name.



The type of habitat they like is very varied but they are one of the few species that are found in the reedbeds of Aammiq Marsh. They also like waste ground where the vegetation has been set on fire, which encourages the plant *Foeniculum*, one of their favoured foodplants in Lebanon. The female only lays one egg at a time, and often the most ragged foodplant specimens are selected. Despite this, many eggs and larvae can be found on a single plant, while neighbouring plants have none. The Swallowtail has a succession of broods nearly throughout the year, and the autumn broods are the most numerous.

The caterpillars of the family of butterflies to which the Swallowtail belongs, the Papilionidae (of which there are at least 550 different species worldwide) are anatomically distinct in that they have an organ behind their heads which produces a foul smelling substance to deter predators.



How do you like the new logo for the community conservation and education program at Aammiq? If you want to know more about it contact us for a full brochure, but be quick bookings are pouring in!

2007 G.A

Thanks to the members of the General Assembly who turned up on a cold afternoon in January, in Ashrafieh, miles away from the conservation work in the Bekaa, south Lebanon or the Mountains but involved in the battle to keep Lebanon beautiful just the same!



Fun Zone

↓

A	T	S	Y	D	I	A	N
C	A	N	I	N	P	P	E
G	N	O	P	E	R	E	K
J	I	W	W	R	C	K	E
A	W	P	I	A	R	R	S
Y	H	A	L	N	M	E	T
O	O	W	E	E	E	T	R
P	O	E	B	E	A	L	E

Can you find 9 birds in this puzzle? You can move up, down or sideways, but you must keep going as soon as you finish one name you must begin the next. You can see these 9 birds in Aammiq. If you like to know more about Aammiq's birds come and visit the marsh, you can contact us to buy the "Birds of the Aammiq Area" booklet which gives you information about the area's birds. *Good Luck ...*

Thanks for reading to the end. Don't forget to visit our website: www.arocha.org

Best wishes, The A Rocha Lebanon Team lebanon@arocha.org

A Rocha Lebanon newsletters are available in 2 languages!!!

If you are reading this newsletter in English but would prefer to have it in Arabic, email us and we will send you your preferred version.



A ROCHA

Together, caring for God's creation