



## Current Issues

By Azzam Alwash, CEO Nature Iraq

I just reviewed the last newsletter and must say that time has indeed passed even faster than it previously did. The state of flux continues and Nature Iraq is continuing to evolve as planned. We completed the split between Nature Iraq and the Twin Rivers Institute (TRI) at the American University of Iraq - Sulaimani. Our KBA work continues. We have started a community service project whereby each thursday our staff conducts a project, such as street cleaning, planting of trees, cleaning a park, etc., in an effort to start the grassroots activism that we have envisioned for the future of NI as well as continuing the surveys. Our work continues with the re-organization of Nature Iraq into a membership-based organization with advocacy and lobbying activities on behalf of nature and the people who love nature and depend on the environment.

Our cooperation with TRI continues as we support each other in growing to meet the needs of various entities needing environmental data and services. In the south, our fearless Jassim continues his work on behalf of the marshes as we try to spread the word about the disaster that has befallen our beloved wetland due to dams up stream and unwise water usage. Further, we built a mudhief intended to be a service center for the National Park and we are now building an adobe house as a prototype to show the locals that their intrinsic technology, developed over 5 millennia by trial and error, is in fact more suitable to the local environment. Watch for reports on our website documenting these projects. Our proposal for the National Park has been accepted by the government of Iraq and we await further future steps to make the park a reality. More activities are discussed elsewhere in this web site as I cannot possibly go over them all.

Jassim, Suzie and I were helping them with the local logistics while the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) of Nassriya lead by Ann Proust of Italy helped CBS incredibly by providing them with a place to stay as well as an assistant to help them on the ground.

The program gives me more credit than I deserve as my and Jassim's role have been limited to helping the locals. But one thing that came out that in the piece that we were saving for a future book, are the breaches along the left side of the Euphrates, which Jassim, myself and Ali Shaheen conspired to excavated in December 03.

We hope to give you more frequent newsletter updates - but that remains just a hope. Frankly without the constant nagging of Anna Bachmann, even this small update would not be forthcoming from me. Wishing you all a happy holiday season and a happy and prosperous new year.

## Nature Iraq in the News



Azzam Alwash & Scott Pelley of 60 Minutes, CBS Television

### ***Iraq's Marshlands: Resurrecting Eden- Scott Pelley Reports on the Restoration of Iraq's Marshlands for CBS***

It turns out Saddam Hussein did possess a weapon of mass destruction and he used it in a slaughter that few have heard of until now: after the Gulf War in 1991, the dictator spent untold millions on this weapon, designed to exterminate an ancient civilization called the "Ma'dan," also known as the "Marsh Arabs."

On Sunday, November 15th 60 Minutes broadcasted "Resurrecting Eden" on CBS Television. If you miss the show, you can watch the entire broadcast at: <http://www.cbsnews.com/sections/60minutes/main3415.shtml?tag=hdr;snnav>.

## Join Nature Iraq

In 2009, Nature Iraq is becoming a membership organization and we are officially launching a call for members. You can support Nature Iraq and our work by becoming a member today. Nature Iraq is a non-governmental organization registered in Iraq. If you are already on our mailing list, you will continue to remain so, but we urge you to consider becoming an official member because by doing so

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## ABOUT US

Nature Iraq is an Iraqi environmental, non-governmental organization registered in Iraq. Our mission is to protect and restore the environment of Iraq and the rich human heritage that it has fostered. We strive to achieve this mission through fulfillment of the following goals:

- > Improve the capacity of Iraq's institutions to protect its environment;
- > Develop a scientific database of environmental conditions and trends within Iraq;
- > Encourage environmental awareness and stewardship of Iraq's environment, and
- > Promote the sustainable use of Iraq's environment and resources.

### Contacts:

Adel Hallawi: +964 7704615447  
adel@natureiraq.org

### Nature Iraq Website:

www.natureiraq.org

Nature-Iraq has offices in Sulaimani, Kurdistan Iraq and Baghdad & Chubayish, Iraq

### Nature Iraq Mailing Address

P.O. Box 249  
Sulaymaniyah, Iraq

## Border Smuggling causes Environmental Pollution



Mawat Area (Google Earth, 2009)

In winter, Nature Iraq, an Iraqi environmental organization, conducted a water quality survey in an area on the Little Zab River near the Kurdistan, Iraq town of Mawat, an area characterized by high mountains and dramatic gorges. Locals call this area Du Choman and here the Little Zab River forms the natural border separating Iran from Iraqi Kurdistan. During this time, Nature Iraq's survey team noticed many plastic cans floating in the river or

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## Public Lectures/Events:

**United Nations Climate Change Conference (Conference of Parties (COP) 15)**, Copenhagen, 7-18 December 2009

**Pan Arab Biodiversity Conference**, 14-16 December 2009, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria, Egypt.

**Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora & Fauna (CITES) Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties**, 13-25 March 2010, Doha, Qatar

**Sociable Lapwing Survey** in Iraq organized by Nature Iraq, 1-10 March 2010.

**World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies**, 19-24 July 2010, Barcelona, Spain.

## Nature Iraq bird surveys in summer 2009

*By Mudhafar Salim, Omar Fadhel, Korsh Ararat and Richard Porter*

In May and June Nature Iraq biologists again carried out detailed surveys of the country's birdlife in order to help assess the most important sites for wildlife conservation - the Key Biodiversity Areas.



*Hila Hamzawya marshes, Winter KBA 2009, Photo by Ibrahem A. Mehdi*

The surveys were the most comprehensive ever made in Iraq, achieving widespread coverage. They were the fifth summer survey undertaken in the southern marshes, the second in Kurdistan and the first in the west at this season.

The known breeding range of over 80 species was extended, mostly in the little-known west and Kurdistan, where two species were added to the Iraq list: Grey-necked Bunting *Emberiza buchanani* and Pale Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne obsoleta*, the latter observed nest building. The surveys also revealed that Iraq's three near-endemic species - Iraq Babbler *Turdoides altirostris*, Grey Hypocolius *Hypocolius ampelinus* and the globally endangered Basra Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus griseldis* had all extended their known breeding ranges.

The globally vulnerable Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris* was discovered breeding at 13 sites in good numbers. Whilst ten sites were in the southern marshes where the species is known to breed, those in the north and west represented a range extension. Over 1,000 birds were counted, with 585 at one site in the marshes.

The near-threatened Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*, and Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* were found for the first time breeding in Iraq: the Ferruginous Duck at six sites in the southern marshes with an impressive 1100 individuals at one of them.

The endemic subspecies of Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* was recorded in high numbers in the marshes at 13 sites, with a high count of 275 at one locality, representing

5% of its population.

As in previous surveys, the population of herons and their allies appeared healthy, with 8 species breeding. Darters *Anhinga rufa* were found at two sites.

The high densities and range of species of birds of prey in Kurdistan was impressive: 17 species breeding or probably breeding, including Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus* (13 sites), Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus* (ten sites), Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes* (eight sites), Booted Eagle *Aquila pennata* (eight sites), Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus* (one site), Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* (three sites), Steppe Buzzard *Buteo b. vulpinus* (16 sites) and Hobby *Falco subbuteo* (one site). Birds of prey are very good indicators of the health of the environment.

The globally endangered Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* was found at 20 sites, totaling over 70 individuals. This demonstrates very clearly the importance of Kurdistan and western Iraq for this species. The globally vulnerable Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* was breeding or probably breeding at a total of 14 sites, with over 110 birds recorded.

Amongst the wading birds, large colonies of breeding Collared Pratincoles *Glareola pratincola* were discovered throughout the country and the population of White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus* in the southern marshes showed that they are of global importance for this little studied species.

Slender-billed Gulls *Larus genei* were present at over ten sites in the south and two in Kurdistan, where one colony held 1,600 pairs and the other 2,400 pairs – over 2% of the world population.

Once again important discoveries were made about the Basra Reed Warbler. Over 200 were recorded during the marshland surveys and a new breeding site - and range extension - was discovered in the north.

Finally two more globally near-threatened species were observed at localities where they were probably breeding: European Roller *Coracias garrulus* at 20 sites and Cinnereous Bunting *Emberiza cineracea* at eight sites. However it was not possible to confirm whether the ten pairs or territories of the near-threatened Semi-collared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata* found in April were nesting birds or migrants.

The findings of these important KBA surveys demonstrate that there are many exciting discoveries still to be made in Iraq.

## NEW FLORA OF IRAQ (NFOI)

*'Taxonomy and conservation go hand in hand. We cannot necessarily expect to conserve organisms that we cannot identify, and our attempts to understand the consequences of environmental change and degradation are compromised fatally if we cannot recognize and describe the interacting components of natural ecosystems.'*

-Mace, G.M. *Philosophical Transactions: Biological Sciences* (2004).

For the last 25 years, botanical research in Iraq has been at a standstill due to a lack of investment, training and support. Taxonomists in Iraq generally lack floristic skills and capacity, as well as vital resources. Libraries and herbaria have been neglected and in some cases badly damaged. Biodiversity research in Iraq is impeded by the lack of an up-to-date completed flora covering the whole country.

The New Flora of Iraq project has therefore been initiated in order to rebuild botanical expertise in Iraq and provide the necessary resources for scientific research. The project will have a considerable impact across a number of disciplines and will contribute substantially in the creation of a new generation of botanists.

The NFOI project will include five closely linked activities:

### FLORA

A flora is the technical guide to all of the plants of a country or region. Six volumes of a nine volume flora of Iraq already exist but these now require revision and are not user-friendly.

Approximately 3,300 vascular plant species occur in Iraq, of which approximately 10% are endemic that is found nowhere else. A draft checklist of these has already been generated by the project and is available from Nature Iraq.

A new Flora of Iraq will provide user-friendly and definitive floristic accounts of all families, genera and species in Iraq. Taxonomy and innovative identification tools for all

species will be revised and updated in line with significant changes in plant systematics. The Flora of Iraq will be primarily based online, allowing for easy access and regular updates.

Most collections made in Iraq are over 30 years old. The new flora will therefore be based upon an extensive fieldwork programme aimed at collecting new material for taxonomic work.

### Iraq Digital Herbarium

The Iraq Digital Herbarium will be an important natural heritage collection and will provide unparalleled access to Iraqi plant specimens for botanical research.

It is estimated that this project will digitize approximately 100,000 Iraqi specimens over an initial 2-year period. All existing collections within Iraq will be digitized as well as all those at major herbaria with significant Iraqi collections (RBGE, RBG Kew, Natural History Museum-Vienna).

Once processed, these virtual specimens will be made available immediately on the Flora of Iraq project website. This initiative will also provide the equipment, training and support for Iraqi staff to digitize all future accessions of Iraqi material.

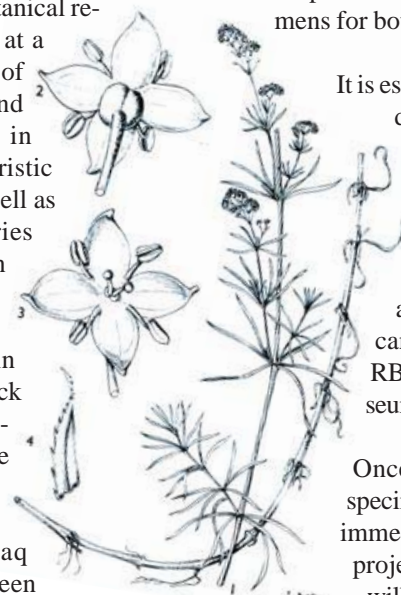
### Field identification tools

Field-based identification tools are vital for providing rapid and accurate identifications for biodiversity surveys, environmental impact assessments and monitoring studies. These can be generated to focus on a particular region or protected area. In contrast to the conventional flora they will also be specifically targeted for use by non-specialists and will have a number of key innovations including:

- \* Interactive image-based keys
- \* Species identification based on diagnostic digital photographs
- \* Data upload/download via New Flora of Iraq website. This will allow the field identification tools to be continually updated and upgraded.

### Capacity building and training

The New Flora of Iraq project will also act as a vehicle for education and training of Iraqi botanists and environment professionals.



Flora of Iraq Illustration

# MESOPOTAMIAN MARSHLANDS ONCE AGAIN FACE DESSICATION

By Suzie Alwash

The Mesopotamian Marshlands, a rare watery landscape in the midst of one of the world's largest desert regions, represent a globally-significant ecosystem. Its shallow lagoons shelter vast populations of endemic and migratory birds and its reedy mudflats sustain an abundant and diverse aquatic wildlife including numerous endangered species. The wetlands nurtured the ancient Sumerian civilization, whose elements remain reflected in its modern Marsh Arab culture.

Once double the size of the Florida Everglades and home to 300,000 people, the marshes nearly vanished in the 1990s when Saddam Hussein drained them to control anti-government rebels. But in 2003, the marsh dwellers tore down the dams and levees holding back the water and the wetlands quickly revived, by 2006 covering 68% of their 1970s extent.

In 2009, the marshes once again began to dry and they now cover only 30% of their former extent. Vast stretches of wetlands have turned to cracked earth littered with empty shells and rotting fish carcasses. The water buffalo have sickened and died, and tens of thousands of marsh dwellers are once again on the move in search of potable water.

Over the last two years, Iraq has been experiencing its worst drought of the decade. During the 2007/08 water year, rainfall was 60% of the average. During the current water year, the total rainfall accumulations were 28 to 40% of normal, amounting to about four inches of total rainfall.

In addition to impacting the natural environment, the drought has devastated agriculture in Iraq. Orchards are dying, and total wheat and barley production in 2008/09 is expected to decline 51 percent compared to last year. Large expanses of productive farmland have become susceptible to desertification, with winds blowing away the fertile topsoil. At least 20 sandstorms have swept across Iraq during 2009, some of them large enough to span the width of the country.

But the marshlands receive very little water from local rainfall: their survival depends upon the influx of water from the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. It is the shortfall of stream flow in those rivers that has created the most widespread damage to Iraq's ecosystem. The Euphrates River headwaters are in Turkey and pass through Syria before reaching Iraq, causing the country to be almost completely dependent on its upstream neighbors for its water supply. Before 1970, the average inflow from the Euphrates into Iraq was equal to 30 BCM, yielding an average flow of around 1,000 cubic meters per second (cms). After construction of large upstream dams on the Euphrates in Turkey and Syria, this inflow fell to an average of 26 BCM during 1976 to 1985 and then to 19 BCM after 1991, equivalent to a flow rate of around 600 cms.

But during the spring of 2009, the flow rate of the Euphrates into Iraq fell to an average of around 250 cms, and the water level of the Euphrates rapidly dropped to half its normal elevation. Throughout the spring and summer of 2009, Iraq repeatedly requested that Turkey release more water into the Euphrates, but Turkey complied only during brief intervals. In June, Ankara promised to release 715

cubic meters per second during July, August and September but failed to fulfill its pledge. Between August 2008 and August 2009, Iraq received only 8 BCM from the Euphrates, just 42% of its usual flow.

The Tigris River, the second major source of water to Iraq, also begins in Turkey. Historically, the Tigris carried an average of 20 to 23 BCM annually into Iraq. But in the water year 2008/09, the Tigris River at Mosul received only 12 BCM. Turkey's plan to construct the enormous Ilisu Dam on the Tigris threatens to also cut off this source of water to Iraq. The Ilisu project was frustrated this June when Germany withdrew its financial support for the project, although Turkey has vowed to continue construction while seeking funding from non-European sources.

Further exacerbating matters, Iran has completed a dyke along its border with Iraq, effectively bisecting the trans-frontier Hawizeh Marsh, known as Hor al-Azim in Iran. The dyke has shut off cross-boundary flows from Iran's Karkheh River, further endangering the Iraqi side of the marshes, the last relict of intact biodiversity in the Mesopotamian Marshlands.

The only solution to Iraq's acute water shortage is to establish a water sharing agreement with its co-riparian neighbors. In September, an inter-ministerial meeting between Turkey, Iraq, and Syria was held to discuss water sharing issues. Turkey declared that it would be impossible to release additional water to the Euphrates, claiming that it had already nearly emptied its largest reservoir in order to assist its downstream neighbors. Iraq accused Turkey of withholding water in its reservoirs, claiming that rain and snow in the Turkish portion of the Euphrates valley was better than last year, yet the Euphrates flows today are even lower than last year. Both Iraq and Turkey accused Syria of withholding water from the Euphrates as it passes between Turkey and Iraq; Syria claimed that it was providing Iraq with water in excess of their treaty requirements. The meeting concluded without agreement.

Iraq must continue to pursue these treaty negotiations with its neighbors and must also conscientiously develop new methods of water conservation, particularly in field agricultural applications. Iraqi wheat and barley farmers rely solely upon flood irrigation, a wasteful practice that also worsens the problem of soil salinization. Modern irrigation practices, and a market-based water pricing policy, must be implemented in order to meet the future demands for water in the country.

## ▶ **New Nature Iraq Reports Available on the NI website**

From the National Park Project- Fish Cage Aquaculture Pilot Sub-Project: **NI Aquaculture Report 2008-NI-0709-01** By Ibrahem M. Abd & Majed M. Taher, Sulaimani, Iraq – July 2009

From the Habitat Mapping & Monitoring Project: **Habitat Project-Classification and Description of Southern Iraqi Marshlands - NI-0109-01** By N. A. Abdulhasan, M. A. Salim, G. S. Al-Obaidi, H. J. Ali, M. A. Al-Saffar, I. M. Abd, & M. Sh. Minjil, Suliamani, Iraq – Jan 2009.

**Also coming soon:** 2009 KBA Reports

And look for our papers in "Environment, Biodiversity and Conservation in the Middle East" Proceedings of the First Middle Eastern Biodiversity Congress, Aqaba, Jordan, 20-23 October 2008, BioRisk - Biodiversity and Ecosystem Risk Assessment (special issue)"

## The search for Slender-billed Curlew



*Slender-billed Curlew (left) and Eurasian Curlew in Yemen on Jan 84, Photo by RF Porter*

Four members of the Cley Bird Club in North Norfolk, UK are offering a total of \$1,000 for any photograph of a *live* Slender-billed Curlew taken in the Middle East. Because of the identification challenges posed by the species any photograph will have to be verified by the SBC Identification Verification Panel, which comprises wader experts with past experience of the species. A properly time-stamped picture is a minimum requirement. A full survey and search for this species is planned for next winter.

It is the wish that \$500 will go to the photographer and \$500 to a conservation cause in the country where the photograph was taken. Already two photographs have been submitted - taken in Iraq last winter - but sadly they were not proven to be Slender-billed Curlew, but great that Iraqi birders are trying to find the bird. The last claim of SBC in the wild, anywhere in the world, was in Hungary in 2001. Can anyone beat that? If so please contact [info@natureiraq.org](mailto:info@natureiraq.org).

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## The search for Sociable Lapwings (autumn recci)



A survey for Sociable Lapwing will take place from approximately March 1st to March 10th, but the Nature Iraq team has already prepared for this survey by conducting a fact-finding trip from Oct 5th-Oct 10th to the suspected locations that will be surveyed in March. This fact-finding survey focused on parts of western Kurdistan and areas in western Iraq over suitable habitat.



*Sociable Lapwing/Sociable Plover by Amano Samarpan, [www.rarebirdsyarbook.com](http://www.rarebirdsyarbook.com)*

which is funded by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in the UK, is the conservation of this endangered species and its habitats in Iraq. With BirdLife assistance, Nature Iraq has already been distributing educational posters on this species, which faces numerous threats from hunters and habitat destruction.

In early March two teams will survey the sites identified by the October trip and these teams will deliver more educational materials to locals, hunters, and falconers. Expert hunters/falconers will accompany and guide the teams during the fieldwork. Contacts with tribes will be made in addition to developing relationships and coordination with Iraqi Hunters and Falconers Associations. Periodical reports and final report will be issued to publicize the results of the project and raising awareness.

The full NI team will be working also on advocacy with other related institutions. Also, the current project will be an opportunity to demonstrate the needs for reviewing/activating the hunting legislation in Iraq, and for lobbying to include Iraq in AEWA.

The principal aim of the program,

caught on the rocks and a slight odor of benzene in the air. We understood this to be the result of fuel smuggling and thought it an isolated incident.



Fuel cans on the rocks of the Little Zab River, 27 Jun 2009, Photo by A. Bachmann

In June, Nature Iraq returned to the area and saw that the problem appeared to be much worse. Every five minutes 20 liter jerry cans were floating downstream and there were hundreds broken up on the rocks. The smell of fuel was strong and there was a sheen on the water in many places. Forestry police in the area indicated that the problem was very bad at that time - almost a daily occurrence. The smugglers, to avoid being caught, often just throw the fuel cans into the water and then attempt to catch them some distance downstream and bring them across, but many slip through and break up on the rocks, releasing their fuel into the water.

On a subsequent trip to the area with a Kurdish journalist, local officials from the Defense, Customs, and Border forces in the area gave varying descriptions of the problem. Iranian forces are actively trying to stop the illegal smuggling going back and forth across the border, which includes everything from fuel to televisions, satellite equipment, and air conditioning units. Roads down to the river on the Iranian side have been blocked and in some cases, smugglers who were discovered were attacked by Iranian security forces. Border guards indicated though that this hasn't stopped the smugglers ... nor the pollution that results from accidental spills caused by fuel smuggling.



Broken fuel can in the Du Choman (Little Zab) area between Iran and Iraqi Kurdistan, 27 Jun 2009. Photo by A. Bachmann

In one recent incident a smuggler attempted to bring 1000 fuel cans across the river but only recovered 300 on the Kurdistan-Iraq side of the river.

Fuels spills such as these, depending on the frequency and amounts spilled, can cause a number of problems such as contamination of drinking water and the killing of fish as well as other organisms in the river. Human health effects, depending on the amount and means of exposure (inhalation or ingestion) can irritate the lungs, the lining of the stomach and the skin, damage the nervous system and, with high exposures, can result in an inability to breath or even coma. Some chemicals within the fuels such as benzene and lead can cause toxic effects even at lose doses.

Local people on both sides of the border are involved in the smuggling and the activity has brought in much needed income to the area. To stop the traffic would require more active involvement by the KRG and Iraq security and border forces and new development in the area to provide local villagers with economic alternatives to smuggling.

Key areas for training will include:

- \* Taxonomic training
- \* Field work methods
- \* Photographic techniques
- \* Specimen collection
- \* Specimen digitisation
- \* Collections management
- \* Database management

### Participating institutions

#### *Iraqi Institutions -*

Twin Rivers Institute for Scientific Studies, American University of Iraq, Sulaimani (TRI)

Nature Iraq (NI)

National Herbarium of Iraq, Baghdad (BAG)

and Universities throughout the country

#### *International Institutions-*

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE)'s Centre for Middle Eastern Plants (CMEP)

Missouri Botanical Gardens (MBG)

Old Dominion University, Virginia (ODU)

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (RBG, Kew)

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## Nature Iraq Service Projects



NI Staff putting in a garden in November 2009 in Sulaimani

Nature Iraq has instituted special days for conducting service projects. These are done on Thursday's in Sulaimani, the location of the Nature Iraq main office, and all NI staff present participates to conduct any number of community service projects designed to clean and improve the local environment. One project was to clean the street and empty lots near the NI Office building in Sulaimani, another was to put in a small garden. All friends of Nature Iraq are invited to participate and spread the word. Let us know if you want to be alerted for the next NI service project, send us ideas for new service projects ... or consider starting a service project of



# Nature Iraq Wish List

Nature Iraq works on research, education and advocacy projects that constantly require equipment, supplies and services.

We appreciate any donation you can provide in the form of financial contribution, services or equipment.

## Our wish list:

### Services:

Editing (English, Arabic, Kurdish)  
Translation services (English to Arabic or Kurdish)

### Equipment and Supplies:

#### High Priority

Six (6) Camera Traps  
Numerous Havahart animals traps (for a catch and release program of medium to large size carnivore study)  
One (1) Zoom Telephoto EF 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6L IS (Image Stabilizer) USM Autofocus Lens  
One (1) digital video camera, Two (2) "point & shoot" digital still cameras  
One (1) Spotting Scope  
Tripod for Spotting Scope &/or camera mounting

#### Other needs

Two or three sturdy tents and lightweight sleeping bags & mats for field work  
"Birds of the Middle East" Books (by Porter et al).

If you are interested in donating, please email us at [info@natureiraq.org](mailto:info@natureiraq.org)  
Or contact us on the following address:

### Nature Iraq office

Nature-Iraq  
House 25, Street 27  
Ashti District 104, Sulaimani  
Kurdistan Region, Iraq  
Tel Iraq: +964 53 329 2007  
Tel USA: +1 714 449 9714  
Mailing Address: Nature Iraq, P.O.  
Box 249, Sulaymaniyah, Iraq

**Please note:** Nature Iraq is a non-governmental organization registered in Iraq. It is **not** a U.S. 503(c)3 organization.

# Items Available from Nature Iraq

## Portable Plant Press for Easier Field Work

These lightweight, flexible plant press satchels are used for collecting and transporting plants in the field. Measuring approximately 35 x 50 cm and made with sturdy, abrasion & water-resistant nylon, they come with a padded shoulder strap as well as backpack straps for easier portability in the field. Solid construction includes Velcro straps, inside



Featured Item!

pockets for additional pencils and supplies and an internal pocket for carrying extra newsprint and cardboard ventilators.

Available in a variety of colors for 57500 ID/ 50 USD.

Contact [info@natureiraq.org](mailto:info@natureiraq.org) to order.

*Join Nature Iraq, Continued from Page 1*

you are taking the extra step to demonstrate that you care about the environment of Iraq and the region as a whole. Becoming a student or individual member is free for this first year and is simply a statement of your support.

## To join...

Simply email us at [info@natureiraq.org](mailto:info@natureiraq.org).

***Basic Membership benefits include:*** The *bi-yearly* newsletter; Discounts to Nature Iraq training and activities; Use of the Nature Iraq library; Recognition in our newsletter; Email updates on Nature Iraq events & activities, and *Our sincere thanks for your contribution*

**Student** (Free for 2010) & **Individual** (Free for 2010)

**Sustaining** (60 USD): Includes all of the benefits above plus: A copy of the "Birds of Iraq" (Arabic) by Salim et al (2006) or a copy of the "Birds of the Middle East" (English) by Porter et al (2005).

**Business /Professional** (150 USD): Includes all of the benefits above plus: A link from our website to yours.

**Newsletter Sponsor** (250 USD): Includes all of the benefits above plus: A business-card ad in the Nature Iraq newsletter

**Benefactor** (500 USD) & **Sponsor** (1000 USD): Includes all of the benefits above plus: Recognition in the Nature Iraq annual report.