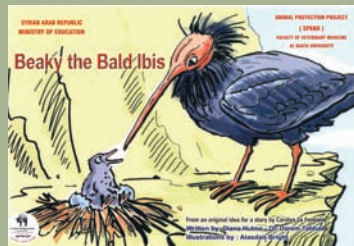


WHAT'S NEW IN THE LITERATURE

Beaky the Bald Ibis

'Beaky the Bald Ibis' is published by the Syrian Arab Republic Ministry of Education and the Animal Protection Project (SPANA).



'Beaky the Bald Ibis' is published by the Syrian Arab Republic Ministry of Education and the Animal Protection Project (SPANA). Its aim is to encourage primary school children to learn about and appreciate the rare bald ibis (*Geonticus eremitus*) found in their country. In the story, 'Mama Ibis' hatches 'Beaky' and teaches him what to eat and how to fly. She also tells him about his cousins, the Sacred ibis of Egypt, whose hieroglyphs symbolise 'wisdom' and she informs him that he has relatives in Turkey and Morocco. Finally, she warns him to avoid the 'two legged birds without wings' called humans, especially those spraying chemicals that might poison his food and those carrying guns who might shoot him.

The book was from an original idea for a story by Carolyn La Fontaine. It was written by Diana Hulme and Dr Darem Tabbaa and illustrated by Alasdair Bright.

If you have seen a bald ibis in the region, please contact:

Dr Darem Tabbaa (Director)
Animal Protection Project (SPANA/ Syria)
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
Al Baath University
Hama – Syria
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Tracking Vultures from the Caucasus into Iran.
McGrady, M. & Gavashelishvili, A. Podoces, 2006, 1 (1/2): 21–26.



Griffon vulture in Oman (*Gyps fulvus*). (©T. Bailey)

The work was undertaken as part of a broad response to the large-scale poisoning of Gyps vultures in south Asia. It shows that birds from the Caucasus travel to Iran, and that Iran may be important in conservation efforts. We fitted four Eurasian Griffon Vultures, *Gyps fulvus* with satellite-received transmitters (PTTs) in Georgia and Armenia in 2004 and 2005. Three birds left the areas where they were fitted with tags in autumn and headed south into the mountainous areas of Iran. One vulture was found dead in an area of paddyfields near the Caspian Sea. One vulture travelled to central Saudi Arabia in winter, and then returned to the colony where it had been fitted with the transmitter. A Cinereous Vulture, *Aegypius monachus* that we tracked also wintered in central Saudi Arabia and moved through Iran from and to a summertime range in the Caucasus region.

Status of Houbara Bustard *Chlamydotis undulata* in Five Important Habitats in Iran.
Mansoori, J. Podoces, 2006, 1 (1/2): 17–20.



Houbara bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata*). (©T. Bailey)

Houbara Bustard *Chlamydotis undulata* lives in large areas of remote desert in Iran. The five selected study areas, Ferdous, Herat and Marvast, Jazmoorian, Bahram-e-Gur and the Monde plains, were mostly large and were situated in remote areas that were very far from each other. The methodology of the study was mostly based on line transects to count the birds in each area. However, in some areas point counts were employed. Among these five habitats, Jazmoorian held the largest number of birds in 1994, but in 1998 and 1999, Herat and Marvast had the highest totals. Qareh Tappeh is an important habitat for the Houbara, supporting a good breeding population every year, successfully enough to support increasing numbers. Bahram-e-Gur is a very good habitat with a population of between 50-125 birds. The main causes of the severe decline of Houbara Bustard in recent years are habitat loss by grazing, habitat changes to agricultural lands, and trapping (and shooting adults) to export live birds illegally to Arab countries.