

Thanks largely to our authors, this issue is a visual feast of the creatures with whom we share this planet. Palestine is home to a unique abundance of species, and the reasons for this variety can be found in this month's featured articles. Immerse yourself, enjoy the stunning images and informative captions, and become inspired to venture out, possibly with a pair of binoculars and best with a bit of patience and perseverance, and meet more members of the global family of living organisms.

Sincere thanks go to the director and staff of the Palestine Museum of Natural History for contributions that cover the wide biodiversity of Palestine's mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles, as well as invertebrates that populate Palestine – some of them as residents, others as visitors during part of the year. The Ministry of Agriculture informs us of efforts that are extended to care for domesticated animals, while taking into consideration that biodiversity must be preserved to best serve animals and humans alike. The Environmental Education Center gives an account of ongoing developments that might seem tame to science fiction enthusiasts but nevertheless are likely to have deadly consequences, leading to the extinction of species. One article finds inspiration and hope in relating a mythological bird to the history of Gaza, and another reminds us that for centuries, animals have played a role in the holy scriptures of our region. A special breed of dog is placed into its rightful historical context, and you will be introduced to inspiring efforts not only to care for its stray siblings but also to raise some rather unusual animals that, for the time being, are cared for as pets.

Our personality of the month is fulfilling his lifelong dream to enhance awareness of the need to preserve Palestine's beautiful fauna. We feature two books, and our artist of the month shows Palestine from a less familiar side – at least as official performance is concerned. If you are in the country, make sure to visit our exhibition of the month and take a look at the rich events section that is filled with exciting things to do on a beautiful summer evening in Palestine.

From all of us at TWiP, we wish you a good, safe, and peaceful summer.

Warmly,  
**Tina Basem**  
Editor



## ||||| Forthcoming Issues

September 2016: **Caring for and Working with People with Disabilities**

October 2016: **Tapping into Palestine's Diaspora**

November 2016: **High Tech in Palestine**

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