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Local/National News

Noted zoologist to address Lucaya Rotary Club meeting

Renowned for his study of rare Bahamian birds

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Dr. William K. Hayes, who is renowned for his study of the Bahamian Iguana and rare endangered Bahamian birds, will be the guest speaker at the weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Lucaya at the Ruby Swiss Restaurant on Tuesday.

Dr. Hayes, who has a Ph.D in zoology and psychology, is an associate professor in the Department of Natural Sciences at Loma Linda University in Loma Linda, California.

Dr. Hayes has been observing the behavioural ecology and conversation of the endangered Bahamian Iguanas for many years and recently began collecting data on the taxonomy and conservation of rare and endan-



DR. WILLIAM K. HAYES
gered Bahamian birds.

His wife Patricia Barry, who assists him with research projects in The Bahamas, has also earned a reputation for her research of iguanas, seabirds and taxonomic studies of the Brown-headed Nuthatch and West Indian Woodpecker.

Born on January 19, 1962 in Takoma Park, Maryland, after leaving high school

Dr. Hayes attended the Walla Walla College in Washington, where he earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in biology.

He furthered his education at the University of Wyoming in 1991, where he earned a Ph.D. in zoology and physiology.

Dr. Hayes gathered a wide range of experience in his field over the years. He was an instructor at the Rosario Beach Marine Station at Walla Walla College's Department of Biology and later was a research and teaching assistant at the University of Wyoming Department of Zoology and Physiology.

His ability to teach others what he had learned led him to become an assistant professor in the Biology Department of the Southern College in Tennessee and later assistant as well as associate professor at the Department of Natural Sciences at Loma Linda

University.

Dr. Hayes is especially willing to speak to the local Rotary Club because the Bahama Nuthatch is endemic to Grand Bahama and is known as the rarest bird in The Bahamas and is seen as a worthy conservation issue.

The associate professor has been given grants and awards to conduct research on such things as the West Indian Iguana, conservation of the endangered Bahamian Rock Iguana on San Salvador, Bahamas and San Salvador's seabirds.

Dr. Hayes is expected to lead a conference in June 2005 at the Gerace Research Centre in San Salvador called the Natural History of The Bahamas Symposium. The last meeting of this kind held in San Salvador was in November 1995, when he organised the International Iguana Society Conference and Expedition.