



SOCIETY OF AVIAN PALEONTOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

- Newsletter -

n° 19, October 2005

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greeting, and welcome to the first newsletter of our new, formalized Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution. As you probably are aware, attendees at the Society's meeting last September/October in Quillan, France voted to adopt the proposed Constitution and Bylaws. In fact, however, there will probably be little change in how SAPE functions, but being a formal society does present new opportunities for its members. I hope to report on some of these in the months ahead.

Following the adoption of the Constitution and Bylaws, the Executive Council voted to instate a policy on membership dues. This statement is presented on the Society's home page (<http://www2.nrm.se/ve/birds/sape/sape001.html.en>). If there are any questions about payment of dues, please contact our Treasurer, David Steadman (dws@flmnh.ufl.edu).

The Society had a very successful auction at the 2004 meeting, despite having to overcome some very difficult obstacles. The greatest difficulty was a lengthy loss of power in the middle of the auction, which left our auctioneer, Larry Martin, having to continue the auction in the dark, with only a few candles for light. Our most appreciative thanks go to Larry for his great efforts as auctioneer, which resulted in the addition of 888 euros (\$1101.12 U.S., at the rate of exchange at the time) to the Society's treasury.

The SAPE does now have a decent balance in our treasury because of the accumulation of money from

auction sales, the instatement of dues, and the elimination of most mailing costs for the newsletter. It would be best if these funds were used in ways that maximize benefits to the goals of the Society. If you have any suggestions as to how we should use these funds, please feel free to send them to me or any other member of the Executive Council of the Society. Any actual decisions on disbursements of funds will be by decision of the Executive Council.

Our next meeting will be in Sydney, Australia, in 2008, kindly hosted by Walter Boles walterb@austrmus.gov.au; The Australian Museum; Division of Vertebrate Zoology (Birds); 6-8 College St.; Sydney 80, NSW 2001; AUSTRALIA). As all of you who have ever been involved with organizing a meeting know, planning can never begin too early, so if you have any suggestions for Walter, please do pass them on to him. Or, if you prefer, I would be happy to pass them along to him.

Finally, I wish to give my personal thanks to Eric Buffetaut and Jean Le Loeuff, and extend to him the thanks and appreciation of the entire Society, for hosting our meeting last September/October in Quillan. The scientific sessions were stimulating and informative, the food was abundant and all delicious, and, indeed, our cup did runneth over, and over, and over, with fine French wine! Thank you, Eric and Jean!

Ken Campbell

MINUTES OF THE 2004 SAPE BUSINESS MEETING

(Recorded and transcribed by Walter Boles, there were 33 attendees)

Reports

Gerald Mayr presented the *Secretary's report*. Five hundred (\$500.00) had been used to send out the annual newsletter; however, this was now being delivered by email. The meeting expressed its thanks to Gerald for his efforts in compiling and circulating the newsletter.

Ken Campbell presented the *Treasurer's report* in the absence of David Steadman. As of 31 May 2000, the Society's account had \$4653.17. The auction at the Beijing meeting collected \$897.00. There were three

withdrawals: \$540 for the newsletter, \$730 reimbursement to Storrs Olson for the Brodkorb index and \$90 to Storrs for additional expenses related to that index. As of 31 August 2004, the Society's account was \$4226.17. The bank statements are available for inspection. Ken asked Ursula Göhlich and Marco Pavia to check the statements; they reported that the statements were accurate.

Constitution and bylaws

Ken Campbell gave some background to the process of formally establishing the Society, which started at the last SAPE meeting, in Beijing, 2000. At that meeting, it was decided that SAPE should formalize its structure. Officers and Executive Council members were elected at that time. Ken subsequently drafted a constitution and circulated this to council members for comments. After changes were incorporated, the revised constitution was posted on the website for members but no comments were received. Ken read the enacting clause, explaining the process. He opened to floor for discussion about the adoption and explained some points, such as the dues. Ken moved the adopted of the constitution and bylaws. Motion was seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

Election of committee

New officers - After discussing the matter before the meeting, the Executive Council preferred that the officers remain for the next term. Alan Feduccia moved that the officers continue as is for the next term. Seconded by Larry Martin. MOTION CARRIED.

Members-at-large - The number of members-at-large will be reduced from 7 to 5, with candidates to be voted on by members. The meeting discussed the virtues of voting by email. A motion to proceed with the election using email was moved by Larry Martin and seconded by Andrzej Elzanowski. MOTION CARRIED.

Suggested name change

Gerald Mayr suggested that the name of the Society be changed to the Society for Avian Phylogenetics and Evolution, which he believed would help attract more

members. This was followed by a discussion of the virtues of such a change and the more general topic of how to increase membership and more broadly advertise the Society. Larry Martin moved to retain the current name of the Society, seconded by David Burnham.

MOTION CARRIED.

Site of next meeting

There were two offers to hold the next meeting: University of Florida, Gainesville, from David Steadman, and Australian Museum, Sydney, from Walter Boles. The invitations from both sites were presented. Members were requested to think about the two offers with the vote to be taken on Friday just before the auction.

Other business

Ken Campbell asked for indications of items brought for the auction. These items should be taken to the room before the meal. Larry Martin would be the auctioneer. Tommy Tyrberg requested that abstracts from the meeting be placed on the Society's website. It was agreed that any changes to abstracts as these appeared in the accompanying booklet should be given to Tommy by 14 October for posting.

Deadline for submissions to proceedings

The proceedings of the meeting will be published in *Oryctos*, the journal of the Esperanza Museum. Eric Buffetaut asked that he receive manuscripts by the end of the year (2004). He will send a reminder to members. Instructions to authors can be found in the journal and in the relevant section of the Esperanza Museum's website.

OBITUARY

Dénes Jánossy (1926 – 2005)

The year 2005 has been particularly sad for the community of Hungarian vertebrate palaeontologists. We lost two leading scholars who, for decades, contributed to archaeological and palaeontological surveys in Hungary and abroad. Soon after the death of Miklós Kretzoi in April, the palaeornithologist Dénes Jánossy passed away in August.

Born in 1926, he finished his studies at the Pázmány Péter (recently Eötvös Loránd) University in Budapest. He was granted the Doctor of Science degree in palaeontology. Dénes Jánossy joined the staff of the Department of Geology and Palaeontology of the Hungarian Natural History Museum beginning from 1946, and was its leader between 1970-1986. After his retirement in 1986 he continued his work as senior research fellow in the same institute. Dénes Jánossy was the founding chairman of the Hungarian Ornithological and Nature Conservation Society. He also taught osteology and vertebrate palaeontology for generations of students in geology and archaeology at the Eötvös Loránd University. In addition to his research in stratigraphy and the palaeontology of micromammals, Dénes Jánossy was devoted to palaeornithology as well. He published dozens of articles and catalogues on archaeological and palaeontological bird bone assemblages. Moreover, new fossil species and subspecies described by him illustrate his major contribution to this field. He was a passionate field ornithologist, committed to the recreating of comparative bird bone collections, following its near-destruction during the fires in 1956.

He was successful not only in his scientific work but also in private life. His wife, Emmy Kölley supported and helped him during excavations as well as in the preparation and publication of the results. Until his last moments they were surrounded by three sons, their wives and fourteen grandchildren.

Dénes Jánossy left an enormous gap among palaeontologists and ornithologists, senior scholars and young scientists alike. He was always available for help and advice. He remains irreplaceable in the Hungarian paleontology.

Erika Gál

SAPE 2008 - SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

At the 2004 SAPE meeting at Quillan, it was decided to hold the 2008 meeting in Sydney, Australia.

To assist with the planning of this event, could you please answer the following questions concerning the program and associated events.

This questionnaire can be returned to Walter Boles by email (walterb@austmus.gov.au), fax (61-2 9320 6059) or post (address below).

Please pass it onto any colleagues who might be interested but would not normally receive SAPE mailings. Thank you.

Walter Boles
Australian Museum
6 College Street
Sydney NSW 2010
Australia.

At this time, do you think that you will be attending SAPE 2008?

Do you have a preferred time of year?

Would this make a difference on whether you attended the meeting?

Are there times of the year that would be prohibitive for your attendance?

Will you be coming with an accompanying person who is not taking part in the meeting?

If so, would you like to have an accompanying persons program?

What type of accommodation would you prefer?

- Student housing at a university?
- Hostel or YMCA/YWCA?
- Hotel or motel? Price range?
- Billeting at private home?
- Other (specify)?

Are you considering making a presentation (either spoken paper or poster)?

Previous SAPE meetings have had various other presentations and activities. Would you like to see any of the following incorporated into SAPE 2008?

- Auction
- Fossil identification session (Washington DC)
- Mini-symposium (France)

- Round table discussions (Washington DC)
- Other (specify)

Would you like to have special talks on subjects specific to Australian fossil history or geology (e.g. Gondwanan geology, Australian fossil history)? If so, please suggest topics.

Would you like to have a free day scheduled near the middle of the meeting?

Would you like to have day trips available before, after or during the meeting? Suggestions include, but are not limited to,

- Taronga Zoo
- Birdwatching: Minnamurra Falls (lyrebirds), Central Coast (megapodes), Shortland Wetlands Centre (magpie geese)
- Sydney Harbour cruise
- Winery tour (Hunter Valley)
- Blue Mountains (World Heritage Site)

During your stay, would you like to work with museum collections?

- Fossils
- Modern skeletons
- Other (specify)

Would you be interested in other social activities? For example, an Australian bush food meal (e.g. kangaroo, emu, crocodile).

Would you be interested in longer pre- or post-meeting fieldtrips? Suggestions are

- Alcoota, NT (late Miocene)
- Naracoorte Caves, SA (Pleistocene; World Heritage fossil site)
- Riversleigh, Qld (late Oligocene-early Pliocene; World Heritage fossil site)
- Wellington Caves, NSW (Pleistocene)
- New Zealand (Quaternary)
- Birdwatching (various)

Do you think you may be staying in Australia for longer than just the SAPE meeting, whether before or after?

Do you have any special requirements (e.g. food, transport, housing, etc)?

Do you have any other suggestions or questions?

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERS AND RECENT PUBLICATIONS

ARGENTINA

CAROLINA ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE continues her studies of fossil penguins, now focusing her analysis on the South American and Antarctic fossil fauna. She started to work in geometric morphometry and statistic analysis of penguin skeletons. Additionally, in a different project, Carolina is working with Claudia Tambussi on the Pampean fossil avifauna, through the analysis of climatic parameters and their influence in the distribution of the living birds which are represented in the Cenozoic fossil record. The results of these studies will be applied to palaeoenvironment reconstructions of the fossil avian habitat.

CLAUDIA TAMBUSI is also continuing her work on avian systematics and paleontology at the Museo de La Plata. In July 2004, she had the opportunity to work at the North Carolina State University together with Julia Clarke. Julia, Claudia, Jorge Noriega, Gregory Ericsson, and Richard Ketcham published the definitive fossil evidence for the presence of Neornithes in the Cretaceous. Her graduate student, María Belén Ibañez, is using morphological data to identify morphological patterns in aquatic birds. Another graduate student, Fermín Echarri, is studying Tinamidae and possible variables that affect their distribution. Lic. Mariana Picasso has started her PhD on rheas (analysis of postnatal development focused on muscles and hind limb bones). Claudia and Carolina Acosta Hospitaleche continue their work on penguin functional morphology and systematics.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (in press): Systematic revision of *Arthrodytes* Ameghino, 1905 (Aves, Spheniscidae) and its assignment to the Paraptenodytinae. - Neues Jahrbuch für Geologie und Paläontologie.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & CANTO, J. (in press): Primer registro de cráneos de *Palaeospheniscus* (Aves, Spheniscidae), procedentes de la Formación Bahía Inglesa (Mioceno Medio-Tardío), Chile. - Revista Chilena de Historia Natural. Santiago de Chile.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., DEGRANGE, F., TAMBUSI, C., RUSTÁN, J. & CORRADO, N. (2005): Valor sistemático de los caracteres del húmero de los pingüinos (Aves, Spheniscidae). - Actas XXI Jornadas Argentinas de Paleontología Vertebrados, Plaza Huinca.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & GASPARINI, G. (2004): Análisis multivariado de caracteres cuantitativos craneanos en Spheniscidae (Aves, Sphenisciformes). Comunicaciones de la Asociación Paleontológica Argentina. Diamante, 29 de noviembre- 1° de diciembre de 2004. - Ameghiniana, 41(4), Suplemento, 2004: 4R.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & STUCCHI, M. (2005): Nuevos restos terciarios de Spheniscidae (Aves, Sphenisciformes) procedentes de la costa del Perú. - Revista de la Sociedad Española de Paleontología, 20(1): 1-5

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & TAMBUSI, C. (2004): Systematic revision of the South American fossil penguins. - 6th. International Meeting of the Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution. France, 2004.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & TAMBUSI, C. (2004): Fossil Penguins from South America. - V International Penguin Conference. Tierra del Fuego, 2004.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & TAMBUSI, C. (2005): Morfometría craneana de *Pygoscelis* (Sphenisciformes): diferencias inter e intraespecíficas. - XI Reunión Argentina de Ornitología. Buenos Aires, 7 al 10 de septiembre de 2005.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & TAMBUSI, C. (in press): *Cyanoliseus patagonopsis* nov. sp (Aves, Psittaciformes) del Pleistoceno de Punta Hermengo, provincia de Buenos Aires. - Ameghiniana.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., TAMBUSI, C. & COZZUOL, M. (2004): *Eretiscus tonnii* Simpson 1981 (Aves, Sphenisciformes): materiales adicionales, status taxonómico y distribución geográfica. - Revista del Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales, 6(2): 632-637.

CIONE, A., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., LAZA, J. & CÉSAR, I. (2004): Marcas de predación en restos de pingüinos (Aves, Spheniscidae) de la Formación Gaiman (Mioceno temprano; Chubut, Argentina). - Actas XXI Jornadas Argentinas de Paleontología Vertebrados, Plaza Huinca.

CLARKE J., TAMBUSI, C., NORIEGA, J., ERIKSON, P. & KETCHAM, R. (2005): Definitive fossil evidence for the extant avian radiation in the Cretaceous. - Nature, 433: 305 - 308.

KRAMARZ, A., GARRIDO, A., FORASIEPI, A., BOND, M. Y TAMBUSI, C. (2005): Los Vertebrados de la Formación Cerro Bandera, Mioceno Temprano de la provincia del Neuquén, Argentina. - Revista Geológica de Chile.

MONTALTI, D., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., DEL VALLE, R. & FERMAN, L. (2004): Fossil Penguin Remains At The South Shetland Island: Taphonomical Inferences. - V International Penguin Conference. Tierra del Fuego, 2004.

TAMBUSI, C. & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2004): Some ecomorphological aspects of South American fossil penguins. - 6th. International Meeting of the Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution. France, 2004.

TAMBUSI, C. & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2005): Análisis morfométrico del cráneo de pingüinos (Aves, Sphenisciformes) fósiles y actuales de América Del Sur. - II Congreso Latinoamericano de Paleontología de Vertebrados. Rio de Janeiro, 10 al 12 de agosto de 2005.

TAMBUSI, C., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & CANTO, J. (2005): Paleornitofauna de pingüinos de Chile. - II Congreso Latinoamericano de Paleontología de Vertebrados. Río de Janeiro, 10 al 12 de agosto de 2005.

TAMBUSI, C., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & HORLENT, N. (2004): Inferencias paleoclimáticas para el Cuaternario de la Región Pampeana a partir del registro de Psittacidae (Aves). - XX Jornadas Argentinas de Paleontología Vertebrados, La Plata, 26 al 29 de mayo de 2004. Ameghiniana, 41(4), Suplemento, 2004: 63R.

TAMBUSI, C., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., REGUERO, M. & MARENSI, S. (in press): Late Eocene penguins from

West Antarctica: systematics and biostratigraphy. - Journal of the Geological Society of London. Cretaceous Tertiary High-latitude palaeoenvironments, James Ross Basin, Antarctica.

TAMBUSSI, C.P., REGUERO, M.A., MARENSSI, S. & SANTILLANA, S. (2005, in press): *Crossvallia unienwillia*, a new Spheniscidae (Sphenisciformes, Aves) from the late Paleocene of Antarctica. - Geobios.

TAMBUSSI, C., UBILLA, M., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & PEREA, D. (2005): Fossil records and palaeoenvironmental implications of *Chloephaga picta* (Gmelin, 1789) (Magellan Goose) and *Cariama cristata* (Linnaeus, 1766) (Seriema) from the Late Pleistocene of Uruguay. - Neues Jahrbuch für Geologie und Paläontologie, 5: 257-268.

AUSTRALIA

WALTER BOLES had several papers published in the past year: (1) the reidentification of *Platalea subtenuis* De Vis as the living Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*, (2) the description of a new flightless gallinule *Gallinula disneyi* from the Oligo-Miocene of Riversleigh, (3) a revision of *Xenorhynchus nanus* De Vis, confirming that it belongs in *Ciconia*, as well as the description of a new species, *C. louisebolesae*, from Riversleigh and (4) notification of the presence of honeyeaters (Meliphagidae) in the Miocene and Pliocene sites from Riversleigh, A chapter providing an overview of the avian fossil record of Australia was due to be published last year and is still overdue. Hopefully, it will appear before the end of 2005. A paper was submitted for the SAPE proceedings revising the giant megapodes *Progura* De Vis, which were found to be the megafaunal form of the living Malleefowl *Leipoa ocellata*. Submitted to the proceedings of the Conference on Australasian Vertebrate Evolution, Palaeontology and Systematics was the description of a new taxon of large passerine from the mid-Tertiary of Riversleigh. New projects that have been started include a revision of the two species of Pleistocene cormorants described by C.W. De Vis, *Phalacrocorax gregorii* and *P. vetustus*. These were based on series suspected of being amalgams of several modern species. The aim of the project is to identify the species involved and, if warranted, synonymise De Vis' names with the appropriate living species. Another De Vis taxon under study, the bird of prey *Taphaetus lacertosus*, is not referable to a living species and is larger than either of the living Australian eagles. There are several nomenclatural problems associated with it and it will require a new generic name.

W. Boles was asked to look at fossil birds found in caves of the Nullarbor Plain in association with well preserved and largely complete fossils of Australian mammalian megafauna, including a nearly complete *Thylacoleo carnifex* (Marsupial Lion). Many of the bird skeletons are more or less complete, and preliminary examination has identified a number of non-passerine and passerine families.

BOLES, W.E. (2005): *Platalea subtenuis* De Vis is a White Ibis. - Memoirs of the Queensland Museum, 51: 1-2.

BOLES, W.E. (2005): Fossil honeyeaters (Meliphagidae) from the Late Tertiary of Riversleigh, north-western Queensland. - Emu, 105: 21-26.

BOLES, W.E. (2005): A review of the Australian fossil storks of the genus *Ciconia* (Aves: Ciconiidae), with the description of a new species. - Records of the Australian Museum, 57: 165-178.

BOLES, W.E. (2005): A new flightless gallinule (Aves: Rallidae: *Gallinula*) from the Oligo-Miocene of Riversleigh, northwestern Queensland, Australia. - Records of the Australian Museum, 57: 179-190.

MAHIRTA, APLIN K.P., BULBECK, D., BOLES, W.E. & BELLWOOD, P. (2004): Pia Hudale Rockshelter: A terminal Pleistocene occupation site on Roti Island, Nusa Tenggara Timur, Indonesia. - In: KEATES, S.G. & PASVEER, J.M. (eds.): Quaternary Research in Indonesia, pp. 361-394. A.A. Balkema Publishers, Leiden.

BULGARIA

BOEV, Z. (2003): Member News and Notes [Bulgaria]. - International Council for Archaeozoology. Newsletter, 4(2): 6.

BOEV, Z. (2004): Middle Pleistocene birds from the Morovitsa Cave (Lovech District, NC Bulgaria). - In: 9th Jubilee Scientific Conf. "75-th Anniversary of the Organized Speleology in Bulgaria". Sofia (Bulgaria), 4-5 April, 2004. Proceedings. Bulgarian Federation of Speleology. Sofia. Program and Summaries. 7.

BOEV, Z. (2004): Middle and Late Holocene birds from the Eastern Upper Thracian Plane. - Historia naturalis bulgarica, 16: 123-132.

BOEV, Z. (2004): Second book on the owls. - Historia naturalis bulgarica, 16: 58.

BOEV, Z. (2004): Comments on the proposed conservation of usage of the specific name *Palaeortyx phasianoides* Milne-Edwards, 1869 (Aves, Galliformes) by the designation of a neotype. Case 3266. - Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature, 61(1): 47.

MARIN, S., IVANOV, I., GEORGIEV, D. & BOEV Z. (2004): On the Food of the Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* on Sakar Mountain and Dervent Heights, Bulgaria. - In: CHANCELLOR, R.D. & MEYBURG, B.-U. (eds.): Raptors Worldwide WWGBP/MME: 589-592.

MILTSCHEV, B., BOEV, Z. & GEORGIEV, V. (2004): Die Nahrung der Schleiereule (*Tyto alba*) in Südost-Bulgarien. - Egretta, 47(1): 66-77.

CZECH REPUBLIC

JIRI MLÍKOVSKÝ continues to work on Tertiary, Quaternary and modern birds. His work on the 2nd volume of the Cenozoic birds of the world, which treats the birds of Africa and adjacent islands, is somewhat delayed, but the manuscript will hopefully be finished in the next year. Note that his address in the online membership list of SAPE is outdated. The correct address is as follows: Department of Zoology, National Museum, Vaclavske namesti 68, CZ-115 79 Praha 1, Czech Republic; e-mail: jiri.mlikovsky@nm.cz.

MLIKOVSKY, J. (2004): Significant bird records from north-east Cambodia in March-April 1999. - Forktail, 20: 102-104.

MLIKOVSKY, J. (2004): Extinction of the Dodo *Raphus cucullatus* (Aves: Raphidae): dating reconsidered. - Casopis Narodniho Muzea, Rada Prirodovedna, 173: 111-112.

MLIKOVSKY, J. (2004): Remarks on some records of Slender-billed Curlew (*Numenius tenuirostris*). - Sylvania, 40: 125-130.

MLIKOVSKY, J. (2004): Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*): a historical breeding record from the Czech Republic. - Sylvania, 40: 131-134.

MLIKOVSKY, J. (2004): Middle Miocene birds of Devínská Nová Ves, Slovakia. - Acta Zoologica Societatis Bohemiae, 68: 21-24.

MLIKOVSKY, J. (2004): Oologicka sbirka Josefa Musilka (1885-1941) v Narodnim muzeu v Praze [Oological collection of Josef Musilek (1885-1941) in the National Museum in Praha]. - In: VANKOVA, J. (ed.): Panurus, 14: 53-65. Pardubice: Vychodocecke muzeum. [In Czech].

MLIKOVSKY, J. (2005): Papousek na rane stredoveke plakete ze Stareho Mesta [A parrot on an early Medieval plaque from Stare Mesto]. - Acta Musei Moraviae, Scientiae Sociales, 90: 181-192. [In Czech].

MLIKOVSKY, J. & BENDA, P. (2005): Taxonomic and nomenclatural status of vertebrate species described by Franz Wilibald Schmidt in 1795. - Casopis Narodniho Muzea, Rada Prirodovedna, 174: 77-88.

MLIKOVSKY, J. (2005): Types of birds in the collections of the National Museum in Praha, Czech Republic. - Casopis Narodniho Muzea, Rada Prirodovedna, 174: 117-126.

FRANCE

ESTELLE BOURDON is finishing her PhD thesis on the Paleogene avifauna from the Ouled Abdoun Basin (Morocco) and the Kpogamé-Hahotoé Basin (Togo). Description of the new species from these localities will be completed in the next months. She has recently concentrated her efforts on the phylogenetic position between the enigmatic false-toothed birds (Odontopterygiformes) and modern birds.

Since the last SAPE newsletter, ANTOINE LOUCHART has participated in the SAPE meeting at Quillan, October 2004, where he presented a study in collaboration with P. Vignaud, Y. Haile-Selassie, A. Likius and M. Brunet on Late Miocene fossil birds from Ethiopia and Chad and its zoogeographical implications (submitted for the proceedings of the meeting, in the journal Oryctos). Other work, mainly on African fossil birds, has been published or is in press this year, as well as a contribution to the proceedings of the conference on insular evolution in Mallorca, 2003 (see references). As a member of the taphonomy working group of the RHOI (see <http://rhoi.berkeley.edu>) he joined a meeting at Langebaanweg (South Africa) last summer with the aim of making a video on methods of surface collection, excavation and taphonomy; the group is coordinated by Christiane Denys (MNHN, Paris). He wishes to thank Pippa Haarhoff (Fossil Park) for her warm welcome, as well as people at the South African Museum, especially Graham Avery, for their help and availability. Other work on Africa includes finishing the study of the birds and the taphonomy of micromammals from the Early Pliocene of Aramis (Ethiopia). In collaboration with Thomas A. Stidham, he plans to participate in the IOC 2006 meeting in Hamburg, presenting a synthetic analysis of the "Tertiary" fossil record of birds in Africa. Concerning other subjects, he finished the identification of the fossil birds from a newly studied Quaternary cave in Corsica, Teppa di Lupinu, excavated under the coordination of Michelle Salotti, and soon to be published. Other ongoing work of Antoine

includes studies on insular evolution of birds and on a passerine from the Oligocene of France.

In November 2004, CÉCILE MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ took part at the conference on Recent Avian Extinctions, organized in London by Julian P. Hume, where she presented a paper, written in collaboration with Sonia Ribes and Roger Bour, on the recent avian extinctions on Réunion Island from the palaeontological and historical sources. This paper will be published in the Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club. Cécile has also written a paper, in collaboration, on some holocene remains of the Northern Bald Ibis, *Geronticus eremita*, found in a cave in the Ardèche Valley. It is the first time that the Northern Bald Ibis is found as fossil in France. This paper has been accepted by the journal Ibis. At the present time, Cécile is working on some papers which will be presented during a scientific meeting, the "Journées Bernard Gèze", organized to celebrate 40 years of research in the Quercy fossiliferous localities. These papers will present some new discoveries made in the Quercy, and will give an updated list of the Quercy avifauna. Cécile took part to excavations in the archaeological site of Arcy-sur-Cure (Yonne), and in the palaeontological locality of Céreste (Alpes de Haute-Provence), early Oligocene, organized by the Parc naturel régional du Luberon, under the direction of Christine Balme.

BOURDON, E. (in press): Osteological evidence for sister group relationship between pseudo-toothed birds (Aves: Odontopterygiformes) and waterfowl (Anseriformes). - Naturwissenschaften.

BOURDON, E., BOUYA, B., & IAROCHÈNE, M. (2005): Earliest African neornithine bird: a new species of Prophaethontidae (Aves) from the Paleocene

- of Morocco. - *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 25(1): 157-170.
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GERMANY

In April, URSULA GÖHLICH returned from the Université Claude Bernard-Lyon 1, where she has passed a marvelous scientific year as a Humboldt-fellow under the superb supervision of Cécile Mourer-Chauviré, back to the Munich University. The conducted project on the Mio- to Pliocene penguins from the Pisco Formation is finished - a first publication is already submitted. The results of this project have been presented during the SAPE-meeting in Quillan, France, and also at the meeting of the working group Vertebrate Palaeontology in Königswinter/Stuttgart in 2005. Further collaborations with several colleagues from the Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1 will continue in a project, e.g. on the Phosphate oxygen isotope composition of the Mio-Pliocene vertebrate fauna of the Pisco Formation. In spring, Ursula received a Habilitation Fellowship by the University of Munich. Current projects of Ursula are two

studies on Miocene Proboscideans from Mongolia and Southern Germany (locality Sandelhausen). The latter one, as well as the avifauna from Sandelhausen, will be presented in September 2005 at the Sandelhausen Symposium, held in Mainburg (Germany). At the present time, Ursula is conducting a collaboration project at the University of Munich with the Humboldt award laureate Luis Chiappe (Los Angeles) on a new theropod dinosaur from the Upper Jurassic of Southern Germany; first results will be presented at the 4th international Symposium on lithographic limestone and Plattenkalk in Eichstätt, Germany. Concerning fossil bird projects Ursula still deals with a study on a barn owl from the Middle Miocene of Spitzberg (Nördlinger Ries, Germany) and in collaboration with Cécile Mourer-Chauviré on a cormorant from the Early Miocene of Southern Germany.

ALBRECHT MANEGOLD finished his PhD thesis on the phylogeny and evolution of "Coraciiformes", Piciformes and Passeriformes (available at <http://www.dissertation.de>). He received a DFG grant which enables him to work as a postdoc at Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg where he is now studying remains of fossil passerines from Oligocene and Miocene localities of Germany.

GERALD MAYR continues his studies on the Paleogene fossil record and higher-level phylogenetics of extant birds. Pdf files of most of his publications can be downloaded from the following website: http://www.senckenberg.de/root/index.php?page_id=532

In cooperation with Andrzej Elzanowski (Poland), Albrecht Manegold and STEFAN PETERS undertook a redescription of the skull of *Confuciusornis*. Two manuscripts are almost ready for publication. After completing an annotated list of extinct and endangered birds in the collections of the Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg (published in 2004), Stefan Peters prepares a similar list of Chilean birds; at the same time this will be a presentation of the complete Francesco-Behn-collection purchased by Senckenberg in 1987.

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- MAYR, G. (2005): Fossil Hummingbirds in the Old World. - *Biologist*, 52(1): 12-16.
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HUNGARY

ERIKA GÁL continues her work in archaeozoology. Nevertheless, she also works on palaeontological bird material when invited. In this year, Erika presented two Late Pleistocene bird bone assemblages from caves in Hungary and Ukraine at the 8th Hungarian Palaeontological Meeting in Transylvania and TAPHOS

'05 International Conference in Barcelona, respectively. The proceedings of the latter meeting are in preparation.

EUGEN KESSLER carries on the study of the evolution of the avifauna in the Carpathian Basin. For the time being, he works on the Neogene and Early Pleistocene

bird material from the Villány Basin (South Hungary). Eugen is attending the meeting of the Romanian Society of Palaeontologists in this September by presenting an Upper Cretaceous pelican-like bird femur found in the Hațeg Basin (Romania) in this year. He teaches at the Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest) presenting the lectures "Applied osteology" and "Dinosaurs and early birds". Eugen Kessler's new address is: Ósz u. 14, 2310 Szigetszentmiklós, Hungary; e-mail: kessler_jeno@yahoo.com.

- GÁL, E. (2004): The Neolithic avifauna of Hungary within the context of the Carpathian Basin. - *Antaeus*, 27: 273-286.
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Period of the Roman Empire. Proceedings of the 5th Meeting of the ICAZ Bird Working Group, Munich, Germany, 26-30 July, 2004. - *Documenta Archaeobiologiae*, 3: 301-316.

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NEW ZEALAND

JOSEPH MCKEE has had a quiet year with regard to fossil birds. Only a few isolated penguin bones have been recovered from the New Zealand Pliocene and Pleistocene sediments.

TREVOR WORTHY has spent much of the last year extracting fossils from the St Bathans Miocene (19-16Ma) fauna. New taxa and better specimens of others continue to be revealed. A paper describing five new waterfowl taxa and reporting the presence of 19 other birds including a *Pelecanoides* species, several rails, parrots, charadriiforms, and passerines, and an accipitrid, a pigeon, an owlet nightjar, and a swiftlet is with the *Journal of Systematic Palaeontology*. Analysis of the very rich Kids Cave fauna from South Island's West Coast reveals it as a predator (Haast's Eagle and Falcon) accumulation: 3700 identified bones in 2 m². It was deposited over the period 22-15 kyr (cal) and documents forest taxa persisting throughout the coldest part of the LGM, thus indicating more habitat heterogeneity than previously suspected over this period.

Completed projects include publication of a Holocene species of *Oxyura* from NZ and a reanalysis of the types of the moa *Dinornis curtus* Owen and *Palapteryx geranoides* Owen. The former was thought lost but is present in the NHM and it confirms the correct referral of specimens to *Euryapteryx curtus* in recent times. However, examination of the lectotype of *P. geranoides*, which has long been placed in *Euryapteryx*, indicates that it is a *Pachyornis* and the senior synonym of *P. mappini* Archey. In consequence, all specimens referred to *Euryapteryx geranoides* (Owen) must now take the next available name *E. gravis* (Owen). Publication of a paper given at the conference held in Mallorca *Insular Vertebrate Evolution: The Palaeontological approach* is imminent. It presents a reanalysis of *Dinornis* morphology testing

the recent discovery from DNA analyses that there was only a single species on each of North and South islands and reveals significant geographical variation related to region and altitude in addition to marked sexual dimorphism. A small expedition (Feb 2005) into the mountains of southwestern South Island by Otago Museum revealed abundant moa coprolites and several specimens of a dwarf variant of *Pachyornis elephantopus*. It seems a complete understanding of moa diversity is still some way off.

Finally, TREVOR was lucky to be invited to examine a small archaeological fauna from the Mangareva Islands by Pat Kirch, and with Alan Tennyson determined that the most notable species in the assemblage is a small *Pseudobulweria* petrel. A new large *Ducula* species was also revealed by a couple bones.

- WORTHY, T.H. (2005): A new species of *Oxyura* (Aves: Anatidae) from the New Zealand Holocene. Longmann Symposium. - *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum*, 51: 255-272.
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- WORTHY, T.H., BUNCE, M., COOPER, A., SCOFIELD, P. 2005. *Dinornis* - an insular oddity, a taxonomic conundrum reviewed. - In: ALCOVER, J.A. & BOVER, P. (eds.): Proceedings of the International Symposium "Insular Vertebrate Evolution: The Palaeontological approach" - Monographies de la Societat d'Historia Natural de les Balears, 12.
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Polynesia. - Berkeley, California, Archaeological Research Facility, University of California. pp.122-127.

WORTHY, T.H., TENNYSON, A.J.D., JONES, C., McNAMARA, J. A. & DOUGLAS, B.J. (in press):

Miocene waterfowl and other birds from Central Otago, New Zealand. - Journal of Systematic Palaeontology.

POLAND

ZYGMUNT BOCHEŃSKI has continued his long term project on the "History of Polish bird fauna". A small, simplified part of it was published in the proceedings of a national conference on corvids. Zygmunt, together with Teresa Tomek, studied Weichselian and Holocene avian remains from Komarowa Cave, Poland. Michał Lorenc, one of Zygmunt's students, completed his PhD and has prepared two manuscripts for publication in Acta Zoologica Cracoviensia.

ZBIGNIEW M. BOCHEŃSKI, together with Ken Campbell, completed a large manuscript on the extinct California turkey *Meleagris californica* from Rancho La Brea, and submitted it for publication to the Contributions in Science. They also prepared a short paper on the identification of turkey remains to species which will appear in the proceedings of the ICAZ Bird Working Group.

TERESA TOMEK, together with Zygmunt Bocheński, published a manuscript on the Weichselian and Holocene avian remains from Komarowa Cave, Poland. She spent most of her time on the identification of bird remains from Biśnik Cave, Poland.

BOCHEŃSKI, Z. (2005): Fossil corvids of Poland - the present state of knowledge. - In: Jerzak, L., Kavanagh, B.P. & Tryjanowski, P. (eds.): Ptaki krukowate Polski [Corvids of Poland]. - Bogucki Wydawnictwo Naukowe, Poznań: 17-23. [In Polish with English summary].

TOMEK, T. & BOCHEŃSKI, Z. (2005): Weichselian and Holocene bird remains from Komarowa Cave, Central Poland. - Acta Zoologica Cracoviensia, 48A (1-2): 43-65.

RUSSIA

In 2004, NIKITA ZELENKOV finished his work on the functional morphology of the hindlimb of woodpeckers. One paper on this subject is accepted in "Zoologicheskyy Zhurnal". He also works on the early evolution of piciform and colliiform birds. The first conclusions will be presented on the next International Ornithological Congress, as well as on the Scientific School of the Young Paleontologists (October, Moscow), and on the next Russian Ornithological Conference (February, Stavropol). Together with E.N. Kurochkin he also took part in excavations of dinosaurs, which were carried out in Maastrichtian site in Amur region in collaboration with Amur Scientific Center of Russian Academy of Science (Russian Far East). No birds have been found. Later in the summer he and E.N. Kurochkin made excavations in a few of late Cretaceous Lower Volga Sites. They found bones of sea reptiles and one bone of a pterosaur. He also continues his research on the Quaternary birds from Yakutia and Sakhalin Island (Russia) as well as from Belorussia. Together with E.N. Kurochkin he is preparing a description of two new

anseriform birds from Pleistocene of Yakutia. He also finished his school-book on the circulatory and respiratory systems of vertebrates.

ZELENKOV, N.V. (2000): Great tit and its little sisters in Krasnogorsk. - Krasnaya Gorka, 19(65): 2. [in Russian].

ZELENKOV, N.V. (2005). Respiratory and circulatory systems of vertebrates. Moscow. VZMSH. [in Russian].

ZELENKOV, N.V. & BOCHAROVA, N.A. (2004). Records of rare bird species in Olenino and Nelidovo Districts, Tver Region. - Ornithologia, 31: 221. [in Russian].

ZELENKOV, N.V. & KUROCHKIN, E.N. (2005). Birds of the Palaeolithic site Djuktai Cave, Eastern Siberia. - Modern paleontology: Classical and newest methods. Moscow. PIN RAN: 125-132. [in Russian with English summary].

SOUTH AFRICA

CHINSAMY, A. (2005): The Microstructure of Dinosaur Bone - Deciphering Biology through Fine Scale Techniques. - Johns Hopkins University Press.

[http://www.press.jhu.edu/books/title_pages/3496.html]

SWEDEN

TOMMY TYRBERG has been busy working on a book about the history of the Swedish avifauna.

TYRBERG, T. (2005): Place-names as a complement to archaeozoological data. A survey of bird-related place-names in Sweden. - Documenta Archaeobiologiae, 3: 359-377.

UNITED STATES

Florida

During the past year, DAVID STEADMAN has resumed full-time curatorial duties and has tried to reinvigorate his research after stepping down as departmental chair in July 2004. Along with museum colleagues Arthur Poyer, Richard Hulbert, Erika Simons, and Jonathan Bloch, Dave has been excavating the highly fossiliferous sediment at the Early Miocene (Hemingfordian land mammal age) Thomas Farm site in northern Florida. While fossils of birds are scarce compared to those of amphibians, reptiles, or mammals, the new excavations have yielded hundreds of new avian fossils that Dave is studying. He is now completing the first of a series of papers on the many undescribed or poorly described avian taxa from Thomas Farm. Dave's other major continental project focuses on waterfowl-dominated avifaunas from the Pliocene and Pleistocene (Blancan through Rancholabrean land mammal ages) of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico.

On islands, Dave is studying bird and mammal fossils from late Quaternary sites (both cultural and non-cultural) in the West Indies (especially the Bahamas, Turks & Caicos Islands, Anguilla, and Tobago) and the tropical Pacific (especially Guam, Vanuatu, and Tonga). He is collaborating with Ph.D. candidate Jeremy Kirchner to describe a number of species of flightless rails from across Oceania. For his dissertation research, Kirchner is using data from ancient and modern DNA to test how the phylogeographic patterns based on molecular data compare with those derived from morphological data.

In August, Markus Tellkamp did an outstanding job of defending his dissertation on rich Holocene avifaunas from cultural sites in Ecuador. Dr. Tellkamp produced an enormous amount of valuable, meticulous data on the comparative osteology of Neotropical birds. He now is tying up the loose ends of his dissertation to get it ready for publication.

The collection of modern birds at the Florida Museum of Natural History continues to grow vigorously, with a focus on maximizing taxonomic and geographic coverage. Our main sources of specimens are as follows: wildlife rehabilitation clinics through Florida; foreign and domestic field work; exchanges of frozen birds with other museums; and salvage programs with a number of zoological parks. Whether prepared as a skin, skeleton, or both, we take two tissue samples from each specimen for molecular research. One sample is kept at

the University of Florida, and the other is donated to the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science.

- BURLEY, D.V., ANDERSON, A. & STEADMAN, D.W. (2004): The volcanic outliers of `Ata in Tongan prehistory: reconsideration of its role and settlement chronology. - *New Zealand Journal of Archaeology*, 25: 89-106.
- KIRCHMAN, J.J. & STEADMAN D.W. (2005): Rails (Aves: Rallidae: *Gallirallus*) from prehistoric sites in the Kingdom of Tonga, including description of a new species. - *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington*, 118: 465-477.
- STEADMAN, D.W. (2005): A new species of extinct parrot (Psittacidae: *Eclectus*) from Tonga and Vanuatu, South Pacific. - *Pacific Science*, 60: 137-145.
- STEADMAN, D.W. (2005): The paleoecology and fossil history of migratory landbirds. - In: *Greenberg, R.S. & Marra, P.P.* (eds.): *Birds of Two Worlds*, pp. 5-17 Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD.
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HELEN JAMES continues her studies of the fossil record of Hawaiian birds and of systematic relationships in the Anatidae and various Passeriformes. SAPE members who wish to visit to the National Museum of Natural History to make use of the excellent skeleton collection are welcome to contact her.

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