SOCIETY OF AVIAN PALEONTOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

- Newsletter -

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

As we have passed the midpoint in time between our quadrennial meetings, our thoughts are occasionally beginning to turn to our next meeting in Australia, in 2008. Early preparation of, or consideration of, papers to be presented at that meeting are undoubtedly underway by the better organized members of the Society. Undoubtedly, also, some members are beginning to wonder if they will have the financial resources to undertake the travel to Australia.

This thought brings me to the question: What do we do with the funds available in the SAPE treasury? Originally, voluntary dues were collected to support the production and mailing of the Society's Newsletter. With the advent of almost universal email, these expenses have virtually been eliminated. So, what is the best use of SAPE funds, which now exceed $4700.00 U.S.? This is not an outrageously large sum, but it is too large to remain unused. Some ideas that have been offered include:

1. Travel grants for students to attend SAPE meetings. Obviously, funds available are not sufficient to cover any individual's entire need for travel funds, but small grants might make it possible for some to attend that otherwise would not be able to make the journey.
2. Travel grants for professionals whose institutions are unable to support all travel costs. Again, probably only small grants to cover partial travel costs could be made available.
3. Purchase of SAPE volumes (at cost of production) for distribution to libraries around the world that otherwise would not receive them.
4. Funding a coordinated effort to scan and make available on-line important, older publications in avian paleontology, anatomy, and evolution. The development of an on-line library of early papers, which were often in regional or university publications, would be an enormous asset for colleagues without access to larger scientific libraries. Many classic, major works and journals are now available on-line, links to many of which are available at our website thanks to Tommy Tyrberg, but equally as important are the difficult-to-find, small papers with descriptions of new species or paleoavifaunas.
5. Provide partial support for publication of the quadrennial SAPE volume to help ensure its prompt publication.
6. ????

What to you think? What would you like SAPE funds to be used for?
Please let me know your thoughts. I will then confer with the other members of the Executive Council to put our funds to what is considered the best possible use.

Cordially,
Ken Campbell (kcampbell@nhm.org)

Remember, dues (5 Euro or 6 US$ per year) are now a requirement for membership in SAPE (http://www2.nrm.se/ve/birds/sape/Statement_on_Dues.pdf), so everyone has a stake in our treasury.

If you did not yet pay these dues, please send payment to our treasurer, David Steadman (dws@flmnh.ufl.edu)

AN UPDATE ON THE PUBLICATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2004 MEETING OF SAPE

The authors of papers submitted for publication in *Orcytos* following the SAPE meeting in Quillan in 2004 are all too aware of the fact that publication is taking a long time. After reorganisation of the publication process last year, *Oryctos* is now facing unexpected financial problems because of the delayed opening of the Esperaza Dinosaur Museum (which is the publisher of *Oryctos*). As a result, printing of the next issues of *Oryctos* has had to be postponed, but articles are being published online. We therefore plan to first publish the papers issuing from the Quillan meeting online (the official publication date will therefore be that of online publication), followed at a later date by a printed issue of *Oryctos*. I apologize for all these problems, and hope that the solution outlined above will be considered satisfactory by the authors.

Eric Buffetaut

ANNOUNCEMENT: INDEX TO BRODKORB'S "CATALOGUE OF FOSSIL BIRDS"

A limited number of copies of Brodkorb's Index, carefully compiled by Storrs L. Olson in 1993 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the publication of part 1 of Brodkorb's "Catalogue of Fossil Birds", is still available. Cécile Mourer-Chauviré will be happy to send a free copy to all SAPE members who would be interested in. The requests are to be sent to Cecile Mourer-Chauviré (email: Cecile.Mourer@univ-lyon1.fr).

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERS AND RECENT PUBLICATIONS

ARGENTINA

FEDERICO AGNOLIN works on several aspects of fossil birds from Argentina. Together with Agustín Martinelli he submitted a paper about fossil birds from the well-known Los Alamitos Cretaceous Locality in which they describe a new minute bird, probably related to the flightless *Patagopteryx*. In addition and with Marcos Cenizo, he is describing several new Cenozoic birds, including a giant-sized anseriform bird, new lapwing species of the genus *Belonopterus*, and new Pleistocene ducks. They are further reporting new fossil records of birds from Miocene beds of Patagonia, including giant-darters (Anhingidae).

This year and under the direction of Claudia Tambussi, FEDERICO J. DEGRANGE started morphometric studies on the hindlimb and the cranium of phorusrhacids birds. This is the central topic of his phD thesis at the Universidad Nacional de La Plata. Using morphometric techniques, muscular reconstructions and biomechanical analyses he will test the hypothesis that these birds were carnivorous. The final stage of this study will be the reconstruction of the role these birds play in the trophic chains of the Cenozoic paleoenvironments of South America. Together with Claudia Tambussi and María Clelia Mosto, he is further studying a tibiotarsus of a big anseriform from the Upper Pleistocene of the Buenos Aires Province. (a *Chloephaga* whose species affinities have not yet been determined).

CAROLINA ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE is working on fossil marine birds, mainly the South American and Antarctic penguin record. As a result and together with two Chilean colleagues, she has described a new Neogene species from the pacific coast. Besides, working with others Argentinian researchers, two new species from the Seymour Island were created. In short time, another Patagonian new penguin species will be published. This year, Carolina was analyzing metric and geometric characters in the skeleton of fossil and living penguins. Complementarily and together with Claudia Tambussi, she is still studying the Pampean fossil avifauna and their climatic constrains, with the purpose to reconstruct past environments.

CLAUDIA TAMBUSSI is also continuing her work on avian paleobiology and evolution at the Museo de La Plata, now focusing her analysis on the Pampean fossil avifauna. In cooperation with Luis Chiappe and Sara Bertelli (USA) undertook a description of a new giant phorusrhacid from Argentina. Claudia and Carolina Acosta Hospitaleche continue their work on penguin functional morphology and systematics.

Her graduate student, María Belén Ibañez, finished her undergraduate thesis 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 is working on her postgraduate thesis on rheas (analysis of postnatal development focused on muscles and hind limb bones).

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2005): Systematic revision of *Arthrodytes* Ameghino, 1905 (Aves, Spheniscidae) and its assignment to the Paraptenodytinae. – Neues Jahrbuch für Geologie und Paläontologie, 7: 404-414.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2005): Longevidad taxonómica en pingüinos (Aves, Spheniscidae) fósiles y actuales. Reunión de Comunicaciones Científicas en Homenaje al Dr. Rosendo Pascual, con motivo de sus 80 años. La Plata, 7 y 8 de julio de 2005. – Ameghiniana, 42(4), Suplemento: 79R.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (in press). Taxonomic longevity in penguins (Aves, Spheniscidae). – Neues Jahrbuch für Geologie und Paläontologie.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (in press): Revisión sistemática del género y especie *Palaeospheniscus biloculata* nov. comb. (Aves, Spheniscidae) de la Formación Gaiman. – Ameghiniana.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & CANTO, J. (2005): Primer registro de cráneos de *Palaeospheniscus* (Aves, Spheniscidae), procedentes de la Formación Bahía Inglesa (Mioceno Medio-Tardío), Chile. – Revista Chilena de Historia Natural, 78: 489-495. Santiago de Chile. ISSN 0717-6317. Santiago de Chile.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., CANTO, J. & TAMBUSSI, C.P (2006, in press): Pingüinos (Aves, Spheniscidae) en Coquimbo (Mioceno Medio- Plioceno Tardío), Chile y su vinculación con las corrientes oceánicas. – Revista Española de Paleontología.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE C., CASTRO, L.N., SCASSO, R. & TAMBUSSI, C. (2006): Primer esqueleto de *Palaeospheniscus patagonicus* (Aves, Spheniscidae). – 9º Congreso Argentino de Paleontología y Bioestratigrafía. Córdoba, 18 al 22 de Septiembre de 2006.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., CHÁVEZ, M. & FRITIS, O. (2006): *Pygoscelis calderensis* nov. sp (Aves, Spheniscidae) de la Formación Bahía Inglesa (Mioceno Tardío- Plioceno Temprano) de Chile. – Revista Geológica de Chile, 33 (2): 327-338.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., DEGRANGE, F.J., TAMBUSSI, C.P., CORRADO, N. & RUSTÁN, J.J. (2006): Evaluación de los Caracteres del Húmero de los Pingüinos Actuales y Fósiles Para su Uso con Fines Sistemáticos. – Ornitología Neotropical, 17: 81-94.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & GASPARINI, G. (2006): Evaluación de caracteres craneales y mandibulares en los Spheniscidae con fines sistemáticos. – Ornitología Neotropical, 17(2): 235-241.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & TAMBUSSI, C. (2005): Fororracos Psilopterinos (Aves) en la Formación Sarmiento de la localidad de Gran Hondonada (Eoceno medio), Patagonia, Argentina. – Revista Española de Paleontología, 20(2): 127-132.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C & TAMBUSSI, C. (2006): *Cyanoliseus patagonopsis* nov. sp (Aves, Psittaciformes) del Pleistoceno de Punta Hermengo, provincia de Buenos Aires. – Ameghiniana, 43(1): 249-253.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & TAMBUSSI, C. (2006): Skull morphometry of *Pygoscelis* (Sphenisciformes): inter and intraspecific variations. – Polar Biology, 29(9): 728-734.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., TAMBUSSI, C. & CANTO, J. (2005): Catálogo comentado de los pingüinos (Aves, Sphenisciformes) fósiles del Museo Nacional de Historia Natural de Santiago, Chile. – Boletín del Museo Nacional de Historia Natural de Santiago, 54: 141-151.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., TAMBUSSI, C., DONATO, M. & COZZUOL, M. (in press): A new miocene penguin from Patagonia and a phylogenetic analysis of living and fossil species. – Acta Paleontologica Polonica.

AGNOLIN, F.L. (2006): Presencia de *Ciconia maltha* (Aves, Ciconiidae) en el Pleistoceno Inferior-Medio del Valle de Tarija, Bolivia. – Revista Española de Paleontología, 21: 39-41.

AGNOLIN, F.L. (in press): Notas sobre algunas aves fororracoideas argentines. – Revista Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales.

AGNOLIN, F.L. (in press): Dos nuevos Anatidae del Pleistoceno de Argentina y comentarios sobre los Anatidae pleistocénicos argentinos. – Studia Geologica Salmanticensia.

AGNOLIN, F.L. (in press): Nuevos registros de Accipitridae fósiles argentinos yrevisión del registro fósil de la familia Accipitridae en Argentina. – Studia Geologica Salmanticensia.

AGNOLIN, F.L., NOVAS, F.E. & LÍO, G.L. (2006): Neornithine bird coracoid from the Upper Cretaceous of Patagonia. Ameghiniana. – Ameghiniana, 43: 245-248.

AGNOLIN, F.L. & PAIS, D.F. (in press): Revisión de la posición sistemática de *Cunampaia simplex* Rusconi 1946. – Revista Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales.

BERTELLI, S. & CHIAPPE, L.M. (2005): Earliest tinamous (Aves: Palaeognathae) from the Miocene of Argentina and their phylogenetic position. – Contributions in Science, 502: 1-20.

BERTELLI, S. & GIANNINI, N.P. (2005): A phylogeny of extant penguins (Aves: Sphenisciformes) combining morphology and mitochondrial sequences. – Cladistics, 21: 209-239.

BERTELLI, S., GIANNINI, N. & KSEPKA, D.T. (2006): Redescription and phylogenetic position of the Early Miocene penguin *Paraptenodytes antarcticus* from Patagonia. – American Museum Novitates, 3525: 1-36.

CIONE, A., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., LAZA, J. & CÉSAR, I. (2005): Marcas de predación en restos de pingüinos (Aves, Spheniscidae) de la Formación Gaiman (Mioceno temprano; Chubut, Argentina). XXI Jornadas Argentinas de Paleontología Vertebrados, Plaza Huincul, 4 al 6 de mayo de 2005. – Ameghiniana, 42 (4), Suplement: 66R.

CIONE, A. L., MENNUCCI, J., SANTALUCITA, F. & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (in press). Local extinction of genus *Carcharias* (Elasmobranchii, Odontaspididae) in the eastern Pacific Ocean. – Revista Geológica de Chile, 33(2).

IBÁÑEZ, M. B., TAMBUSSI, C.P. & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2006): Análisis osteomuscular de la pelvis y locomoción en pingüinos fósiles. – 9º Congreso Argentino de Paleontología y Bioestratigrafía. Córdoba, 18 al 22 de Septiembre de 2006.

KSEPKA, D.T., BERTELLI, S. & GIANNINI, N.P. (2006, in press): The phylogeny of the living and fossil Sphenisciformes (penguins). – Cladistics.

KSEPKA, D.T. & BERTELLI, S. (2006): Fossil penguin (Aves: Sphenisciformes) cranial material from Seymour Island (Antarctica). – Historical Biology, 18(2): 1-7.

MAKOVICKY, P., APESTEGUÍA, S. & AGNOLIN, F.L. (2005): The oldest South American dromaeosaurid theropod. – Nature, 437: 1007-1011.

NOVAS, F.E., SALGADO, L., CALVO, J.O. & AGNOLIN, F.L. (2005): A new titanosaurid (Dinosauria, Sauropoda) from the Upper Cretaceous of Patagonia. – Revista del Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia", 7: 37-41.

TAMBUSSI, C. & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2005): Los pingüinos del Mioceno del Chubut y su rol en los ecosistemas marinos. I Simposio de Paleontología y Geología de Península Valdés. Actas de las Comunicaciones Anuales de la Asociación Paleontológica Argentina. Puerto Madryn, 27 al 30 de noviembre de 2005. – Ameghiniana, 42(4), Suplemento: 11R.

TAMBUSSI, C., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C.I. & HORLENT, N. (2006, in press): La avifauna del cuaternario de Argentina: inferencias paleoambientales a partir del registro de los Psittacidae. Monografía – Societat D´Historie Natural De Balears, volumen especial en honor a Juan Cuerda Barceló.

TAMBUSSI, C., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., REGUERO, M. & MARENSSI, S. (2006): Late Eocene penguins from West Antarctica: systematics and biostratigraphy. –

In: FRANCIS, J.E., PIRRIE, D. & CRAME, J.A. (eds.): Cretaceous–Tertiary High-Latitude Palaeo-environments, James Ross Basin, Antarctica. Geological Society, London. – Journal of the Geological Society of London, Special Publications, 258: 145–161.

BULGARIA

ZLATOZAR BOEV extracted fossils from sediments of a Late Pliocene locality near Varshets (NW Bulgaria) where more than 45 new avian remains were collected (most from passerines). He further studies ca. 100 new avian remains from a Late Pleistocene locality near Muselievo (CN Bulgaria) which were collected by Georgi Hristov. He further developed the recent bird skeleton collection, and 247 new items entered the NMNHS funds. His current projects on recent birds include an atlas of breeding birds of Bulgaria (to be published in 2006), a Red Data Book of Bulgaria (to be published in 2007). One student works on a phD on "The Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca* Savigni, 1809) (Accipitridae - Aves) in Bulgaria in 2000-2009 – distribution, biology, ecology, population number and measures of conservation".

BOEV, Z. (2006): First finds of ancient ostriches discovered in Bulgaria. – Novosti, BAS, 7 (35): 2-3 (In Bulgarian).

BOEV, Z. (2006): Avian remains from the Early Bronze Age settlement near Dyadovo village (vicinity of the town of Nova Zagora (Stara Zagora Region, SE Bulgaria) – Historia naturalis bulgarica, 17: 133-135.

BOEV, Z. (2006): Deuxième trouvaille de la Bernache a cou roux *Branta ruflcollis* (Pallas, 1769) (Aves: Anatidae) au Quaternaire en Bulgarie. – Historia naturalis bulgarica, 17: 124.

BOEV, Z. (2006): Early Pleistocene avifauna of Kunino (NW Bulgaria). – Historia naturalis bulgarica, 17: 125-132.

BOEV, Z. (2006): Late Holocene avian remains from the localities of the Roman period in Bulgaria. – Historia naturalis bulgarica, 17: 109-123.

BOEV, Z. (2006): Pleistocene avifaunas of Bulgaria: a brief review. – Historia naturalis bulgarica, 17: 95-107.

BOEV, Z. (2006): First review of the biodiversity of the Eastern Rhodopes. – Historia naturalis bulgarica, 17: 108. (in Bulgarian).

MILCHEV, B., BOEV, Z. & KODJABASHEV, N. (2006): Breeding Distribution and Diet composition of the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba* (Scopoli, 1769)) (Aves: Strigiformes) in the North-Western Upper Thracian Plane (Bulgaria). – Acta zoologica bulgarica, 58 (1): 83-92.

MITEV, I. & BOEV, Z. (2006): Food spectrum of the Eagle-Owl (*Bubo bubo* (L., 1758)) (Aves - Strigiformes) from two Holocene localities in NE Bulgaria. – Historia naturalis bulgarica, 17: 153-165 (in Bulgarian, English summary).

FRANCE

ANTOINE LOUCHART continued to work on African fossil birds from diverse localities, late Miocene to Pleistocene, essentially from Chad and Ethiopia. He also finished other studies, for instance on island birds. He presented a poster at the International Ornithological Congress in August in Hamburg, Germany. This congress was extremely interesting and the organization was perfect! The poster ("African birds: a historical perspective in the light of the Tertiary fossil record") summarized a work that is still ongoing and will be published elsewhere, and which is basically a synthesis, and a catalogue of the African fossil birds from the Paleocene to the Pliocene. This work is part of the RHOI program funded by the NSF (Revealing Hominid Origins Initiative; http://rhoi.berkeley.edu). Antoine would like to take the opportunity of this newsletter to ask SAPE members for any references, pdf files or reprints that should be included in this review of Tertiary African fossil birds, and that you think he could possibly have missed because they were very recently published or appeared in publications difficult to find. Many thanks in advance.

CÉCILE MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ is officially retired since the 1st of September 2005, but she has been awarded the title of "Emeritus" and thus will be able to continue her research works at the University Claude Bernard - Lyon 1. Since last year she has been working on several papers on the Quercy avifauna, presented during the "Journées Bernard Gèze", 1st-3rd of October 2005, and which are going to be published in the journal Strata. For the moment she is preparing her collection of recent and fossil material to be included in the main collection of the university.

LOUCHART, A., CARRIER, J., & STIDHAM, T.A. (2006): African birds: a historical perspective in the light of the Tertiary fossil record. – Journal of Ornithology, 147 suppl.: 204-205.

MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. & BALOUET, J.C. (2005): Description of the skull of the genus *Sylviornis* Poplin, 1980 (Aves, Galliformes, Sylviornithidae new family), a giant extinct bird from the Holocene of New Caledonia. – In: ALCOVER, J.A. & BOVER, P. (eds.): Proceedings of the International Symposium "Insular Vertebrate Evolution: the Palaeontological Approach". Monografies de la Societat d'Historia Natural de les Balears, 12: 205-218.

MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C., BOUR, R. & RIBES, S. (2006): Recent Avian Extinctions on Réunion (Mascarene Islands) from the paleontological and historical sources. – Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club, 126A: 40-48.

WHITE, T.D., WOLDEGABRIEL, G., ASFAW, B., AMBROSE, S., BEYENE, Y., BERNOR, R.L., BOISSERIE, J.R., CURRIE, B., GILBERT, H., HAILE-SELASSIE, Y., HART, W. K., HLUSKO, L.J., HOWELL, F.C., KONO, R T., LEHMANN, T., LOUCHART, A., LOVEJOY, C.O., RENNE, P.R., SAEGUSA, H., VRBA, E.S., WESSELMAN, H. & SUWA, G. (2006): Asa Issie, Aramis and the origin of *Australopithecus*. – Nature, 440: 883-889.

GERMANY

URSULA GÖHLICH is currently working again at the University of Munich, where she is funded by a Habilitation-Fellowship by the Munich University. She is continuing her projects on Neogene birds and proboscideans and a new Jurassic dinosaur. End of 2005, her revision with Cécile Mourer-Chauviré (Lyon) of the Early Miocene phasianids from France has been published. In March 2006 the Commission for Zoological Nomenclature decided positively on an application of Göhlich & Mourer-Chauviré [case 3266, 2003 Bull. Zool. Nomenclature, 60; 2004 Bull. Zool. Nomenclature, 61(3)] to conserve the species name *Palaeortyx phasianoides* Milne-Edwards, 1869 by designation of a neotype [opinion 2146 (case 3266): *Palaeortyx phasianoides* Milne-Edwards, 1869 (Aves, Galliformes): Usage of the specific name conserved by the designation of a neotype. Bulletin of Zoological nomenclature, 63(1), March 2006]. Thus, the name *Palaeortyx phasianoides* stays valid for this phasianid species. In spring 2006, U. Göhlich and Luis Chiappe presented the new theropod dinosaur *Juravenator* from the Upper Jurassic of Southern Germany. The project and collaboration is still ongoing and a monography on this specimen is in preparation. From January to June 2006, U. Göhlich conducted a postdoc project on Upper Miocene proboscideans of Austria at the Natural History Museum of Vienna in cooperation with Gudrun Daxner-Höck. Some publications on Mio-Pliocene penguins from Peru are accepted or under submission.

ALBRECHT MANEGOLD continues his studies of Oligocene and Miocene passerines of Germany and France at the Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg.

GERALD MAYR is currently describing new specimens of *Palaeotodus* (Todidae) and *Turnipax* (Turnicidae) from the early Oligocene of Germany, as well as some avian remains from the early Eocene of India. A description of the tenth *Archaeopteryx* specimen is in press.

STEFAN PETERS took part in the analysis of the tenth specimen of *Archaeopteryx*. He continued the revision of the birds of Chile housed in the collections of the Senckenberg institution, prepared a short paper on the family Ameghinornithidae, and presented at the 24. IOC a poster on the ridge-glider model for the origin of avian flight.

ELŻANOWSKI, A., MANEGOLD, A. & PETER, D.S. (2005): A redescription of a skull of *Confuciusornis sanctus*. – Archaeopteryx, 23: 51-55.

GÖHLICH, U.B. & MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. (2005): Revision of the phasianids (Aves, Galliformes) from the Early Miocene of Saint-Gérand-le-Puy (Allier, France). – Palaeontology, 48(6): 1331-1350.

GÖHLICH, U.B. & CHIAPPE, L.M. (2006): A new carnivorous dinosaur from the Late Jurassic Solnhofen archipelago. – Nature, 440 (7082): 329-331.

GÖHLICH, U.B. (2006): Ein Pinguin aus der Wüste - *Spheniscus urbinai* Stucchi, 2002. – Jahresbericht 2005 und Mitteilungen der Freunde der Bayerischen Staatssammlung für Paläontologie und Geologie München, 34: 45-47.

MANEGOLD, A. (2006): Two additional synapomorphies of grebes Podicipedidae and flamingos Phoenicopteridae. – Acta Ornithologica, 41(1): 79-82.

MAYR, G. (2005): A *Fluvioviridavis*-like bird from the Middle Eocene of Messel, Germany. – Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences, 42: 2021-2037.

MAYR, G. (2005): Das zehnte Skelettexemplar eines Archaeopterygiden. – Archaeopteryx, 23: 1-2.

MAYR, G. (2006): New specimens of the early Eocene stem group galliform *Paraortygoides* (Gallinuloididae), with comments on the evolution of a crop in the stem lineage of Galliformes. – Journal of Ornithology, 137(1): 31-37.

MAYR, G. (2006): A rail (Aves, Rallidae) from the early Oligocene of Germany. – Ardea, 94(1): 23-31.

MAYR, G. (2006): An osprey (Aves: Accipitridae: Pandioninae) from the early Oligocene of Germany. – Senckenbergiana lethaea, 86(1): 93-96.

MAYR, G. (2006): A new raptorial bird from the Middle Eocene of Messel, Germany. – Historical Biology, 18(2): 95-102.

MAYR, G. & MANEGOLD, A. (2006): New specimens of the earliest European passeriform bird. – Acta Palaeontologica Polonica, 51(2): 315-323.

MAYR, G. & MANEGOLD, A. (2006): A small suboscine-like passeriform bird from the early Oligocene of France. – Condor, 108: 717-720.

MAYR, G. & MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. (2005): A specimen of *Parvicuculus* Harrison & Walker 1977 (Aves: Parvicuculidae) from the early Eocene of France. – Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club, 125(4): 299-304.

MAYR, G. & MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. (2006): Three-dimensionally preserved cranial remains of *Elaphrocnemus* (Aves, Cariamae) from the Paleogene Quercy fissure fillings in France. – Neues Jahrbuch für Geologie und Paläontologie, Monatshefte, 2006(1): 15-27.

MAYR, G. & PETERS, D.S. (2006): Response to Comment on "A well-preserved *Archaeopteryx* Specimen with Theropod Features". – Science, 313 (5791): 1238.

MAYR, G., POHL, B. & PETERS, D.S. (2005): A well-preserved *Archaeopteryx* Specimen with Theropod Features. – Science, 310: 1483-1486.

PETERS, D.S. (2006): The ridge-glider model for the origin of flight – arguments and evidence. - Journal of Ornithology, 142 (Suppl. 1): 228.

PETERS, D.S. (in press): The fossil family Ameghinornithidae (Mourer-Chauviré 1981) - a short synopsis. – Journal of Ornithology, 142 (online 30. 8. 2006).

TISCHLINGER, H., GÖHLICH, U.B. & CHIAPPE, L.M. (2006): Borsti, der Dinosaurier aus dem Schambachtal: Eine Erfolgsstory mit Hindernissen! – Fossilien, 5: 278-287.

TISCHLINGER, H. & UNWIN, D. (2004): UV-Untersuchungen des Berliner Exemplars von *Archaeopteryx lithographica* H. v. Meyer 1861 und der isolierten *Archaeopteryx*-Feder. [Ultra-violet light investigation of the Berlin example of *Archaeopteryx lithographica* H. v. Meyer 1861 and the isolated *Archaeopteryx* feather.] – Archaeopteryx, 22: 17-50.

TISCHLINGER, H. (2005) Neue Informationen zum Berliner Exemplar von *Archaeopteryx lithographica* H. v. Meyer 1861. [New information regarding the Berlin example of *Archaeopteryx lithographica* H. v. Meyer 1861.] – Archaeopteryx, 23: 33-50.

VIDELER, J.J. (2005) How *Archaeopteryx* could run over water. – Archaeoptery, 23: 23-32.

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WELLNHOFER, P. (2005): Nachruf auf Prof. Dr. John H. Ostrom (18.2.1928-16.7.2005). – Archaeopteryx, 23: 99-102.

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GREAT BRITAIN

In 2005 JULIAN HUME obtained a PhD in association with the University of Portsmouth and The Natural History Museum, Tring entitled 'The vertebrate palaeontology of the Mascarene Islands'. After new fossil layers were discovered by a Dutch archaeological team in 2005, he was invited to take part in a more comprehensive excavation in June 2006, and over 4000 bones were collected. This material comprises small vertebrate bones, previously unavailable, and extremely well preserved and articulated elements of species such as dodos, giant tortoises etc., and large amounts of plant material. A Dutch/Anglo multidisciplinary team was involved in the excavation and contextual data concerning geology, sedimentology, taphonomy, dendrology and palynology was obtained. Results are expected to be published later in the year. In November 2006, he starts work on a stratigraphical excavation of 2 hitherto undisturbed caverns on Rodrigues Island, Mascarenes. His preliminary survey in 2005, when surface material was collected from an adjacent but partially excavated cave, has revealed new elements of some of the now extinct Rodrigues birds and reptiles. This will be the first time a stratigraphical excavation has been attempted in the caverns.

JOHN STEWART has been continuing work on the bird remains from various British Pleistocene sites, such as Boxgrove and West Runton. He has also written up a variety of other faunas, most of which are already out or in press. Recently, he wrote a paper with Mark Beech on the Miocene birds of Abu Dhabi Emirate for the Colin Harrison memorial volume, and is currently trying to finish his part of a collaboration on the woodland birds of Late Pleistocene Europe with Tommy Tyrberg. This paper emerged from the various endeavors John has made to investigate Late Pleistocene ecology, as it is apparent that many authors have misrepresented this episode in terms of the harshness of the environment. John's work on this issue has already resulted in previous contributions on Northern Refugia, and has also led to collaboration with the University of Liege on the excavation of Trou Al'Wesse in the Belgian Ardennes, where John is working on the cave's vertebrate assemblage. The Ardennes are one of the potential cryptic northern refugia during the Ice Ages. John has also contributed a number of papers on another, albeit non-avian, biped namely *Homo* with papers on Neanderthal ecology and their possible competition with modern humans. John recently initiated a fossil bird remains extension to the BOU British Bird List, and co-opted key UK bird remains experts (Jo Cooper, Derek Yalden and Terry O'Connor) onto a panel that will establish an accepted list of native British birds, based on the Recent fossil and archaeological records. The potential importance of this new approach was recently highlighted in the debate over Eagle Owl breeding in the UK, to which John was able to apply the fossil record perspective (see Giles, J. 2006. Bird lovers keep sharp eye on owls. *Nature*, 439: 127). He has written a review of the fossil evidence for Eagle Owl in Britain, shortly due to be published in British Birds. Finally, because British PhD's are not automatically published John's PhD will be published as part of the British Archaeological Reports. He apologizes that you will have to buy a copy if you want one, as the publishers only provide a few copies. He notes that this is a little embarrassing, as he has received so many published PhDs from SAPE members over the years.

STIG WALSH has recently moved from the Natural History Museum (NHM), London, to the University of Portsmouth. While at the museum, Stig worked with Angela Milner on a project using micro CT to investigate the early Tertiary evolution of the avian brain. The project was closely related to earlier NERC-funded work that used the same techniques to assess the evolutionary stage of the brain and inner ear in the London specimen of *Archaeopteryx lithographica* (Domínguez et al., 2004. The avian nature of the brain of *Archaeopteryx*. Nature, 430: 666-669). The new project concentrated on the holotypes of *Prophaethon shrubsolei* and *Odontopteryx toliapica* from the Lower Eocene London Clay of England. The virtual endocasts reconstructed from these specimens revealed an exceptional degree of detail, even including most of the major cranial nerves. The results of the work indicate that the avian brain was essentially modern in form by 55 Ma, although primitive in a number of respects. The research has been submitted to the Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society, will be presented by Angela Milner this year at the SVPCA (Paris) and SVP (Ontario) meetings, and forms the basis of a new research project at the Natural History Museum. Stig continues his work on South American fossil penguins, and is currently combining that interest with his research on avian brain evolution. Stig is working with Nina Triche (Austin, Texas) and Dave Martill (Portsmouth) on penguin brain morphology, based on comparisons of micro-CT analysis of modern species, and an undescribed Miocene endocranial cast from the Bahía Inglesa Formation of Chile. Last year, Stig presented the results of a new morphometric analysis of the penguin tarsometatarsus. This research follows from shape analysis work on the penguin humerus and tarsometatarsus using the DAISY artificial neural net (presented at the SAPE meeting in 2004), and is currently in press. In a more traditional vein, Stig recently published on new penguin remains from the Neogene Chilean Bahía Inglesa Formation, including a description of a large new species of *Pygoscelis* based on a partial skeleton. Stig has also completed a description of the first Tertiary fossil avian material from Venezuela. The new material is from the Pliocene Codore Formation, and is referable to a new species of jabiru stork.

CESSFORD, C., ALEXANDER, M. & DICKENS, A. WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ALLEN, M., BALLANTYNE, R., BLACKBURN, M., BLINKHORN, P., CLARKE, A. DE-

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HUNGARY

ERIKA GÁL continues her work in archaeozoology; she does not have any new publications in palaeontology but has submitted two manuscripts.

EUGEN KESSLER has completed his DSc dissertation on the evolution of the avifauna of the Carpathian Basin. He identified new avian material from the Oligocene, Miocene, Pliocene and Pleistocene of Hungary. He also revised the previously studied fossil taxa described from these periods and region. He continues his teaching activity at the Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest) as well.

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ITALY

In February 2005, MARCO PAVIA got a definitive job at the University of Torino as a Collection Curator of the Geological and Palaeontological Museum. His activities are partially focused on organising and cataloguing part of the huge historical collections of the Museum and the new collections. The first year, Marco spent most of the time organising the move of the department (with the collections) to a new place. During the same period he has been involved in research on the early Pleistocene site of Pirro Nord. This site is well known since a long time for its rich vertebrate associations found in fissure fillings. These include some bird material, part of which was studied by C. Bedetti in her PhD thesis. Recently, Marco Pavia and other colleagues from Torino carried on new investigations and found also some stone artefacts, which represent one of the oldest human record in Europe. This discovery and its consequences gave a lot of work to Marco and his colleagues, and that is just at the beginning because they plan to start a systematic investigation of the site from the next years on. Marco also continues his studies on fossil birds, even if in the last months he had not too much time to do this. In the current projects, he mainly focuses his research on the insular forms and the Early and Middle Pleistocene Italian localities. His is still working on the Late Miocene Gargano material in order to conclude the huge work as soon as possible. A first publication made with U. Göhlich on the phasianids was submitted for the proceedings of the SAPE meeting in Quillan. Moreover, his is working with C. Mourer-Chauviré on the description of the topotypical material of *Tyto sanctialbani* from La Grive (France) and on the Plio-Pleistocene fossil birds from Orosei (Sardinia). His new address is: Marco Pavia PhD, Museo di Geologia e Paleontologia, Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, Via Valperga Caluso, 35, 10125 Torino, Italy (marco.pavia@unito.it).

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MEXICO

In the last years, EDUARDO CORONA-M has been working on assembling the fossil record of birds (non-dinosaurian) from Mexico. The works covered the scarce information on Tertiary localities and practically all the Quaternary record. The data analyses are in progress. A brief abstract on this issue will be published in the book series "II Estudio País" published by the Comisión Nacional para la Biodiversidad (CONABIO), a government agency for Biodiversity research. In January 2006 a cycle of lectures on palaeornithology

was held, promoted by the Seminario Relaciones Hombre-Fauna (www.geocities.com/shofaun) and granted by the Cátedra José Luis Lorenzo, both from the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, the government agency for archaeological and Quaternary palaeontological research. The lectures were given by Dr. Antonio Sánchez Marco, an associate researcher of the Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales (Madrid). The three days of lectures were very successful, since every day more than 50 peoples attended the event. The audience was composed by ornithologists, paleontologist, archaeologists, both students and professionals. Two works are in course. One, in collaboration with Rosa Elena Tovar (UNAM), studying the bird remains from a Late Pleistocene locality in Puebla. Another one, in collaboration with Aurelio Ocaña (INAH), analyzing bird remains retrieved from an early human settlement from the Basin of Mexico.

POLAND

ZYGMUNT BOCHEŃSKI has retired but he is still going to remain active as avian paleontology is his hobby. Besides continuing his long term project on the "History of Polish Bird Fauna" he worked on a nearly complete and partly articulated skeleton of a hummingbird found in the Polish Flysh Oligocene deposits of the Carpathians. This provides further evidence for hummingbirds in the Early Tertiary of Europe. The manuscript will be completed soon.

ZBIGNIEW M. BOCHEŃSKI has continued fruitful collaboration with Ken Campbell. They spent two months studying owl remains from Rancho La Brea, paying particular attention to the smallest species of the genera *Aegolius* and *Glaucidium*, and the extinct *Strix brea*. Manuscripts are in preparation. Zbigniew has also been involved in zooarchaeological projects in Poland, carried out together with Teresa Tomek.

TERESA TOMEK continued her work on the very rich material from Biśnik Cave, Poland. Together with Zbigniew, she prepares a guidebook to the identification of bones of domestic species. The goal of the project is to create a dichotomous key to the identification of all major skeletal elements of domestic birds, and to discriminate them from all other European species.

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RUSSIA

NIKITA ZELENKOV started studying Neogene birds from Central Asia. During the first half of 2006 he worked on Phasianids from the Miocene and Pliocene of Mongolia and Buryatia (Asian Russia) and found at least two new forms. He also works on Pleistocene and Holocene avian remains from archeological sites of the European part of Russia.

ZELENKOV, N.V. (2005): Quaternary birds from Ostantsevaya Cave, Sakhalin Island. – Ornithologia, 32: 167-168.

ZELENKOV, N.V. & DZERZHINSKY, F.Y. (2006): The hind limb structure and climbing in woodpeckers. – Zoologichesky zhurnal, 85(3): 395-410. [In Russian with English summary].

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SPAIN

ELORZA, M. (2005/2006): First palearctic fossil record of *Polysticta stelleri* (Pallas) 1769. – Munibe, 57(1): 297-301.

SWEDEN

PER ERICSON has spent the last few years using molecular methods to study avian evolution and systematics. The main focus has been on higher-level relationships among passerines. Most recently, however, he published a paper in collaboration with Andrzej Elzanowski, Gerald Mayr and others, on the patterns of diversification and timing of evolution within Neoaves. The paper presents the first well-resolved molecular phylogeny for Neoaves, together with divergence time estimates calibrated with a large number of stratigraphically and phylogenetically well-documented fossils. Together with Johan Dalsätt, Zhonghe Zhou and Fucheng Zhang he also have initiated a study on the life and death of *Confuciusornis*.

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IRESTEDT, M., FJELDSÅ, J. & ERICSON, P.G.P. (2006): Evolution of the ovenbird-woodcreeper assemblage (Aves: Furnariidae) - major shifts in nest architecture and adaptive radiation. – Journal of Avian Biology, 37: 260-272.

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UNITED STATES

California

In Los Angeles, KEN CAMPBELL welcomed Zbigniew Bocheński back for a two month working visit at the George C. Page Museum, a branch facility of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, for additional research on the birds of Rancho La Brea. The objective of this visit was to review the collection of owls in the Rancho La Brea collections. They hope that descriptions of two new pygmy owls and a re-description of *Strix brea* will appear as a result of this collaboration, preferably sooner rather than later. A little known fact about the birds of Rancho La Brea is that there are actually more owls present than vultures. The reasons for this perhaps unexpected result will be presented in the planned general review of the strigiform avifauna. Meanwhile, the review of the extinct California turkey, best known from Rancho La Brea, by Zbigniew and Ken has been moving through the publication process and should appear in print some time in October, 2006. The timing of this publication should make it a big hit in some quarters as we here in the U.S. look forward to our November Thanksgiving holiday, where turkeys take center stage. Fritz Hertel and Ken Campbell received word in June that their paper on the structure and function of the antitrochanter in birds has been accepted for publication in "The Auk". Although space requirements for the journal resulted in considerable shortening of the anatomical details originally presented in the ms, these will appear in a separate paper in preparation. Data-gathering for their latest collaborative work, which is an anatomical analysis of how birds walk, has nearly been completed and preparation of the ms has begun in earnest. They look forward to presenting the results of their analysis at the next ICVM in Paris next year. Ken and Fritz recently returned from a month in Peru where Ken was collecting rock samples for paleomagnetic studies of Amazonian sediments, ably assisted by Fritz. They also had the good fortune to visit one of the guano islands off the coast of northern Peru where Fritz collected data for a comparative study of wing morphology and behavioral ecology of boobies, ably assisted by Ken.

With the geologist Jeff Stilwell, SYLVIA HOPE is currently describing birds found in the Takatika Grit on the Chatham Islands, east of New Zealand. The California Academy of Sciences is still in its temporary quarters but will begin moving into the new Academy in Golden Gate Park during the coming year.

Florida

David Steadman, along with museum colleagues Arthur Poyer, Richard Hulbert, Erika Simons, Jonathan Bloch, and Natalie Wright, continues to excavate the highly fossiliferous sediment at the Early Miocene (Hemingfordian land mammal age) Thomas Farm site in northern Florida. 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. He is continuing to collaborate with Jeremy Kirchman, who received his PhD in August 2006, to describe a number of species of flightless rails from across Oceania. Jeremy completed his dissertation research on ancient and modern DNA of *Gallirallus* to test how the phylogeographic patterns based on molecular data compare with those derived from morphological data. Dave also is describing various new non-rail species from sites across Oceania. 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.

The current balance in the U.S. SAPE bank account is $4772.17.

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