



SOCIETY OF AVIAN PALEONTOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

- Newsletter -

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

The 7th International Meeting of the Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution in Sydney has just come to an end. It was truly a great meeting. I congratulate the members that had the possibility to attend and I want to extend the thanks from the Executive Council to the Australian Museum of Natural History, which hosted the meeting and especially to Walter Boles and Jaynia Sladek who took care of most of the practical arrangements. Abstracts of the many interesting talks and posters can be found at the SAPE webpage:

<http://www2.nrm.se/ve/birds/sape/sape001.html.en>

I will take this opportunity to share with you some thoughts about the future of SAPE. It is obvious that SAPE serves an important role in bringing together people every fourth year for a meeting on avian evolution in general and avian paleontology in particular. These meetings are always a success scientifically – from the talks and poster presentations you learn a lot about the advances in the understanding of avian evolution. At the same time the social function of these meetings cannot be overestimated. However, I think SAPE yet has to find its role between its successful meetings. An important exception is the newsletter which is important to get a yearly update about other SAPE members and their research. The last four years we also have had a discussion list, which unfortunately attracted extremely few contributions. This is rather curious since we know that the advances in our field of science have been plentiful in recent years, but obviously discussions concerning these are held in other discussion lists or by other means of communication.

We live in an era of a tremendous accumulation of new knowledge about avian evolution thanks to the many, often spectacular, new bird fossils, as well as to a renewed interest in studying systematics relationships by analyzing more and hopefully better data (molecular and morphological) with methodologies that while at their best reduce subjectivity and produce more transparent results. Numerous of scholars and amateurs are eager to learn more about the advances within our field. I believe that SAPE should provide the meeting place for all these people. By that I also mean that SAPE should actively seek members among molecular systematists, neornithologists (particularly those studying developmental and functional morphology in birds), and other. SAPE could become the forum for all researchers that have the study of avian evolution as their common denominator. Indeed, I believe that there currently is no other such forum.

Consequently I suggest that SAPE actively encourages sessions at our meetings that are devoted to other aspects of bird evolution than paleontology. I also suggest that the members of SAPE actively promote SAPE as the prime society for people interested in avian evolution in general. We should advertise this openly and frequently via discussion lists and when attending other meetings. However, SAPE should always be a society focusing on avian paleontologists. Thus, while making future meetings attractive also to researchers in all fields of avian evolution, the Executive Council and the organizers of these meetings have a responsibility to make sure that paleontology dominates the talks and posters.

Per Ericson
President

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2004 SAPE MEETING

The proceedings of the 2004 SAPE meeting in Quillan have now been published online, with the abstracts being available at the Oryctos website: <http://www.dinosauria.org/oryctos.php>.

Access to the full content of these papers is restricted, and pdfs/reprints are still to be sent to the authors. The printed version of the journal has not yet been published.

REPORT FROM THE BUSINESS MEETING

Several important decisions were taken at the SAPE Business Meeting in Sydney. One was to accept the generous invitation from the Vienna Museum of Natural History through Ursula Göhlich to host the next SAPE meeting in 2012. We will soon get more information about this from Ursula.

The Business Meeting also elected new officers to the Executive Council. Our previous members-at-large Herculano Alvarenga, Walter Boles, Andrzej Elzanowski, Helen James, Alexandr Karhu, Claudia Tambussi, and Zhonghe Zhou are greatly acknowledged for their service, and the meeting elected

Estelle Bourdon, Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan, Ursula Göhlich, Jorge Noriega, and Marcel van Tuinen as our new members-at-large. Trevor Worthy was elected as Vice-President and he will, in accordance with our constitution, become the next President in 2012. We owe our deepest gratitude to Ken Campbell who has served as SAPE's first elected president. Among other things, Ken was instrumental in transforming SAPE into a formal society.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The balance in the U.S. SAPE bank account was \$4772.17 in September 2006.

On 31 August 2007, the balance was \$4908.38, reflecting \$136.21 in deposits (from dues) and no withdrawals.

On 10 August 2008 (before the SAPE meeting in Sydney), the balance was \$5034.38, reflecting \$126.00 in deposits (21 person-years of dues) and no withdrawals.

The issue of so many members being behind in their SAPE dues (U.S. \$6.00 per year) was partially resolved at the SAPE meeting in Australia in August 2008. I was unable to attend that meeting, and I have

not yet received an accounting of the financial proceeds. I am setting up a PayPal account for the SAPE bank account, which will allow members to pay their dues securely with a credit card, debit card, or bank account. The PayPal account also will eliminate the perennial problem of currency exchange. I had hoped to have the PayPal account set up in time for this newsletter, but institutional snags (distinguishing among the University of Florida, SAPE, and Dave) have complicated the process. Once the PayPal account is set up, I will notify you through a mass e-mail to the membership of this new, easier way to pay dues.

NORTH AMERICAN PALEONTOLOGICAL CONVENTION

Katherine McCarville informs the SAPE members that the North American Paleontological Convention is held in Cincinnati from June 21-26, 2009. If she had commitments from 8 people to participate, she would be willing to coordinate a symposium at the NAPC meeting. Talks are 15 minutes, and there can be up to 16 talks in the symposium. Abstracts will be due later

this fall. She suggests that anyone who might be interested in presenting on fossil birds at NAPC contact her (McCarvilleK@uiu.edu). She will also be contacting a few people who are not active in SAPE, but might be interested. **She needs to have 8 names by Sept 20, as she needs to propose the symposium by Sept 25.**

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERS AND RECENT PUBLICATIONS

ARGENTINA

CAROLINA ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE is still working on marine fossil birds, with emphasis on penguins from South America and Antarctica. She now focuses on the skeletal anatomy of penguins and skuas and its paleobiological implications. Together with an Argentinean colleague, she is studying an isolated penguin skull from the Atlantic coast of Argentina (Miocene strata). She continues working on two PhD thesis projects. One of the students, Lucía Ibáñez, analyzes the cranial anatomy and its relationships with the salt gland, while the other, Delfina Comesaña, works on the taphonomic processes involved in penguin preservation. Carolina has also revised the systematics of a couple of fossil species from Patagonia. Complementarily, she is working on predation and scavenging marks found in penguin bones.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2007): Revisión sistemática del género y especie *Palaeospheniscus biloculata* nov. comb. (Aves, Spheniscidae) de la Formación Gaiman. – *Ameghiniana*, 44 (2): 417-426.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE et al. (2007): *Ciencias Naturales ESB 2*. – Dirección General de Cultura y Educación. 158 pp.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2008): Estatus taxonómico de *Palaeoapterodytes ictus* (Ameghino, 1901) (Aves; Sphenisciformes) del Mioceno temprano de patagonia, Argentina. – III Congreso Latinoamericano de Paleontología de Vertebrados. Neuquén.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE C., CASTRO, L.N., TAMBUSI, C. & SCASSO, R. (2008): *Palaeospheniscus patagonicus* (Aves, Spheniscidae): new discoveries from the Early

- Miocene of Argentina. – *Journal of Palaeontology*, 82 (3): 565-575.
- ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., TAMBUSSI, C. & DOZO, M.T. (2007): *Dendrocygna* (Anseriformes) en el Mioceno tardío de la Formación Puerto Madryn (Argentina): anatomía de la pelvis. – XXII Jornadas Argentinas de Paleontología Vertebrados, Trelew.
- ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & TAMBUSSI, C. (2008): Morfología y paleobiología de pingüinos fósiles sudamericanos basado en caracteres craneales. – III Congreso Latinoamericano de Paleontología de Vertebrados. Neuquén.
- ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & TAMBUSSI, C. (2008, in press). South American fossil penguins: a systematic update. – *Oryctos*.
- ARCHUBY, F., DI CARLO, U. & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2007): La Ley 25.743/2003 y la protección del patrimonio paleontológico bonaerense: virtudes, problemas y posibles soluciones. – Quintas Jornadas Paleontológicas Regionales, Mar Chiquita 10, 11 y 12 de agosto de 2007; pp. 11-12.
- CIONE, A.L., REGUERO, M. & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2007): Did the continent and sea have different temperatures in the northern Antarctic Peninsula during the Middle Eocene? – *Revista de la Asociación Geológica Argentina*, 62 (4): 586-596.
- COMESAÑA, D. & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2008): Análisis tafonómico de *Spheniscus magellanicus* (Aves, Sphenisciformes) bajo condiciones experimentales. X Congreso de Ciencias Morfológicas de La Plata. – VII Jornadas de Educación. La Plata.
- ECHARRI, F., TAMBUSSI, C. & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2008): Predicting the distribution of the crested-tinamous *Eudromia* spp (Aves, Tinamiformes). – *Journal of Ornithology*.
- IBAÑEZ L.M., TAMBUSSI, C. & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2008): Estudio morfológico del surco nasal en aves acuáticas. X Congreso de Ciencias Morfológicas de La Plata. – VII Jornadas de Educación, La Plata.
- MONTALTI, D., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., MARTI, L., ARCHUBY, D., TÁRTARA, M. & GRAÑA GRILLO, M. (2008): Morfoanatomía esquelética del skua pardo *Catharacta antarctica* y del skua polar del sur *C. maccormicki*. XI Congreso Argentino de Ciencias Morfológicas; Congreso Internacional de Educación e Investigación en Ciencias Morfológicas. – *International Journal of Morphology*.
- TAMBUSSI, C. & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2007): Antarctic birds (Aves) during the Cretaceous-Eocene times. – *Revista de la Asociación Geológica Argentina*, 62 (4): 604-619.
- TAMBUSSI, C.P., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & HORLENT, N. (2007): La avifauna del cuaternario de Argentina: inferencias paleoambientales a partir del registro de los Psittacidae. – *Geomorfología Litoral i Quaternari. Homenatge a Joan Cuerda Barceló*. *Mon. Soc. Hist. Nat. Balears*, 14: 69-80.
- TAMBUSSI, C.P. & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2008, in press): Skull shape analysis and diet of South American fossil penguins (Sphenisciformes). – *Oryctos*.

AUSTRIA

URSULA GÖHLICH (Natural History Museum of Vienna) continues her research on Neogene proboscideans and birds. Additionally she is still a lecturer (palaeontology) at the University of Munich (Dept. for Geological and Environmental Sciences).

One of her current projects is a new Late Miocene vertebrate fauna from Lower Austria (locality Atzelsdorf), where she is studying different mammal groups and a very scanty bird material. Another collaboration with Cécile MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ (University Lyon) deals with a new fossil cormorant from the Early Miocene in Germany. This topic was presented at the SAPE meeting in August 2008 in Sydney.

AMIOT, R., GÖHLICH, U.B., LÉCUYER, C., MUIZON DE, C., CAPETTA, H., FOUREL, F., HÉRAN, M.-A. & MARTINEAU, F. (2008): Oxygen isotope composition of marine vertebrate phosphates from the Middle Miocene to Early Pliocene of Peru. – *Paleogeography, Paleoclimatology, Paleoecology*, 264: 85-92.

CALANDRA, I., GÖHLICH, U.B. & MERCERON, G. (2008): How could sympatric megaherbivores coexist?

Example of niche partitioning within a proboscidean community from the Miocene of Europe. – *Naturwissenschaften*, 95 (9): 831-838.

GÖHLICH, U. (2008): Dinojagd im Land der Klapperschlangen. – *Universum*, 3, NHMW 12-13

GÖHLICH, U.B. (2008): Die Tierwelt der Eiszeit. – In: WIESBAUER, H. (ed.): *Die Steppe lebt*: 14-16.

GÖHLICH, U.B. & PAVIA, M. 2008. A new species of the Phasianid *Palaeortyx* from the Mio-Pliocene of Gargano – *Oryctos*, 7: 95-108.

RYAN, T.M., BURNEY, D.A., GODFREY, L.R., GÖHLICH, U.B., JUNGERS, W.L., VASEY, N., RAMILISONINA, WALKER, A. & WEBER, G. (2008): A reconstruction of the Vienna skull of *Hadropithecus stenognathus*. – *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 105 (31): 10699-10702.

TISCHLINGER, H. & GÖHLICH, U.B. (2008): Dinosaurier im Altmühltal. – *Globulus*, 13: 73-82.

AUSTRALIA

WALTER BOLES (Australian Museum) conducted little fossil work this year, as he was otherwise occupied completing several chapters for Handbook of Birds of the World and co-authored the book 'Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds'. He then increasingly involved in the planning and hosting of the international meeting of SAPE (18-23 August 2008). Upon completion of the conference, Walter turned his attention to the move of the modern bird specimens into

a new collections building, which was being completed as the meeting was taking place. This move is now underway. Hopefully, when it is completed, he will be able to return to fossils in 2009.

Although there were only 40 delegates to the meeting, it was a very successful gathering, with three days of papers, a good evening get together and conference banquet, and two rewarding field outings to see

lyrebirds, megapodes, Magpie Geese and a range of other native Australian birds. Walter wishes to thank his Australian Museum colleagues who assisted in the planning and day to day running of the meeting—Jackie, Fran, Scott, Shane and, particularly, Jaynia. Information on the submitting papers for the proceedings will be circulated in a few days. The deadline for submission is 15 January. Stay tuned.

JACQUELINE NGUYEN continues her PhD on Tertiary passerines from Riversleigh and other Australasian sites.

BOLES, W.E. (2008): Systematics of the fossil Australian giant megapodes *Progura* (Aves: Megapodiidae). – *Oryctos* 7: 191-211.

CHRISTIDIS, L. & BOLES, W.E. (2008): Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds. CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne.

BULGARIA

ZLATOZAR BOEV examined avian remains from the early Neolithic settlements near Yabalkovo village (Haskovo Region, SE Bulgaria) and Hotnitsa village (Veliko Tarnovo Region, CN Bulgaria).

BOEV, Z. (2007): Member News and Notes [Bulgaria]. – Internat. Council for Archaeozoology. – Newsletter, 8 (2): 3.

BOEV, Z. (2007): Prof. Nikolay Burchak-Abramovich's Private Collection of Late Pleistocene Birds from Binagada (Azerbaijan). – In: 5th International Meeting of European Bird Curators "Collections in Context", Natural History Museum Vienna, August 29th – 31st 2007 Vienna, Austria. [Programme and Abstracts]: 13.

BOEV, Z. (2007): First finds of ancient ground–hornbills of Europe discovered in Bulgaria. – In: POPOV, A. & SLAVOVA, S. (eds.): Новости – News 2006, BAS: 108-111.

BOEV, Z. (2007): First finds of ancient ostriches discovered in Bulgaria. – In: POPOV, A. & SLAVOVA, S. (eds.): Новости – News 2006, BAS: 106-108.

BOEV, Z. (2007): Neogene avifaunas of Bulgaria (a brief review). – In: BAKARDJIEVA, N., CHANKOVA, S., KRASTANOV, B. & GATEVA, S. (eds.): Evolution and Ecology – 2007. Union of the Scientists of Bulgaria. 3rd National Seminar. Proceedings, Sofia: 26-35.

BOEV, Z. (2008): A brief review of the history of the nature protection in Bulgaria. – In: Seminar of Ecology – 2008, 17-18 April 2008, Sofia. Program and Abstracts, Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, Biology Section: 14.

BOEV, Z. (2008): Afro-tropical and Afro-Indo-Malayan elements in the Neogene avifauna of Bulgaria and their paleozoogeographical implementations. – EGU 2008 session SSP16: "Paratethys - Mediterranean - Indopacific climatic, biotic and sedimentologic evolution"; Geophysical Research Abstract, Vol. 10.

BOEV, Z. (2008): Bulgarian contribution to the exploration of the fossil avifauna of Indochina. – In: POPOV, A. & SLAVOVA, S. (eds.): Новости – News 2007, BAS: 107-111.

BOEV, Z. (2008): First finds of giant land tortoises discovered in Bulgaria. – News, BAS, 4 (56): 2-4.

BOEV, Z. (2008): First finds of megantereon discovered in Bulgaria. – In: POPOV, A. & SLAVOVA, S. (eds.): Новости – News 2007, BAS: 104-107.

BOEV, Z. & BEECH, M. (2007): The Bird Bones. – In: POULTER, A. G. (ed.): Nicopolis ad Istrum. A Late Roman and Early Byzantine City. The Finds and the Biological Remains. Oxbow Books. The Society of Antiquaries of London. London. 242-253+307-318.

BOEV, Z., MILCHEV, B. & POPOV, V. (2007): Fauna, Zoogeography, and Ecology of Birds in Bulgaria. –

In: FET, V. & POPOV, A. (eds.): Biogeography and Ecology of Bulgaria. Springer, Dordrecht: 39-84.

BOEV, Z. & GERASIMOV, G. (2007): Ловен фазан *Phasianus colchicus* Common (Hybrid) Pheasant. – In: IANKOV, P. (ed.): Atlas of Breeding Birds in Bulgaria. Bulgarian Society of the Protection of Birds, Conservation Series, Book 10. Sofia, BSPB: 206-207.

BOEV, Z., GERASIMOV, G. & IANKOV, P. (2007): Колхидски фазан *Phasianus colchicus colchicus* (Colchic) Pheasant. – In: IANKOV, P. (ed.): Atlas of Breeding Birds in Bulgaria. Bulgarian Society of the Protection of Birds, Conservation Series, Book 10. Sofia, BSPB: 204-205.

BOEV, Z., GERASIMOV, G. & NIKOLOV, S. (2007): Глухар *Tetrao urogallus* Capercaillie. – In: IANKOV, P. (ed.): Atlas of Breeding Birds in Bulgaria. Bulgarian Society of the Protection of Birds, Conservation Series, Book 10. Sofia, BSPB, 194-195.

BOEV, Z., SPASSOV, N. & KOVACHEV, D. (2008): First Remains of Fossil Ostriches (Aves: Struthioniformes – Struthionidae) from Bulgaria. – *Acta zoologica bulgarica*, 60 (1): 89-98.

GERASIMOV, G., BOEV, Z. & SHURULINKOV, P. (2007): Лещарка *Bonasa bonasia* Hazel Grouse. – In: IANKOV, P. (ed.): Atlas of Breeding Birds in Bulgaria. Bulgarian Society of the Protection of Birds, Conservation Series, Book 10. Sofia, BSPB: 190-191.

HRISTOV, I., BOEV, Z. & KOVACHEV, A. (2007): Бухал *Bubo bubo* (Eurasian) Eagle Owl. – In: IANKOV, P. (ed.): Atlas of Breeding Birds in Bulgaria. Bulgarian Society of the Protection of Birds, Conservation Series, Book 10. Sofia, BSPB, 324-325.

IANKOV, P. & BOEV, Z. (2007): Тетрев *Tetrao tetrix* (Eurasian) Black Grouse. – In: IANKOV, P. (ed.): Atlas of Breeding Birds in Bulgaria. Bulgarian Society of the Protection of Birds, Conservation Series, Book 10. Sofia, BSPB, 192-193.

KOVACHEV, A., MICHEV, T., BOEV, Z. & TODOROV, E. (2007): Лопатарка *Platalea leucorodia* (Eurasian) Spoonbill. – In: IANKOV, P. (ed.) 2007. Atlas of Breeding Birds in Bulgaria. Bulgarian Society of the Protection of Birds, Conservation Series, Book 10. Sofia, BSPB, 88-89.

KOVACHEV, A., MICHEV, T., BOEV, Z. & KUTSAROV, I. (2007): Червена чапла *Ardea purpurea* Purple Heron. – In: IANKOV, P. (ed.): Atlas of Breeding Birds in Bulgaria. Bulgarian Society of the Protection of Birds, Conservation Series, Book 10. Sofia, BSPB: 80-81.

KOVACHEV, A., MICHEV, T., BOEV, Z. & DELOV, V. (2007): Нощна чапла *Nycticorax nycticorax* (Black-crowned) Nighth Heron. – In: IANKOV, P. (ed.): Atlas of Breeding Birds in Bulgaria. Bulgarian Society of the Protection

- of Birds, Conservation Series, Book 10. Sofia, BSPB, 68-69.
- MICHEV, T., BOEV, Z., TODOROV, E. & KUTSAROV, I. (2007): Голяма бяла чапла *Egretta alba* Great White Egret. – In: IANKOV, P. (ed.): Atlas of Breeding Birds in Bulgaria. Bulgarian Society of the Protection of Birds, Conservation Series, Book 10. Sofia, BSPB, 76-77.
- NIKOLOV, S., BOEV, Z. & DELOV, V. (2007): Планински кеклик *Alectoris graeca* Rock Partridge. – In: IANKOV, P. (ed.): Atlas of Breeding Birds in Bulgaria. Bulgarian Society of the Protection of Birds, Conservation Series, Book 10. Sofia, BSPB, 198-199.
- PETKOV, N., MICHIEV, T., BOEV, Z., STEFANOV, T. & GIGOV, S. (2007): Голям воден бик *Botaurus stellaris* (Great) Bittern. – In: IANKOV, P. (ed.): Atlas of Breeding Birds in Bulgaria. Bulgarian Society of the Protection of Birds, Conservation Series, Book 10. Sofia, BSPB, 64-65.

- PETROV, T., STOYCHEV, S. & BOEV, Z. (2007): Стридожд *Haematopus ostralegus* (Eurasian) Oystercatcher. – In: IANKOV, P. (ed.): Atlas of Breeding Birds in Bulgaria. Bulgarian Society of the Protection of Birds, Conservation Series, Book 10. Sofia, BSPB, 232-233.
- RUSKOV, K., ANELOV, I., YANKOV, P., TONCHEV, B., STOYNOV, E., BOEV, Z. (2007): Далматински сокол *Falco biarmicus* Lanner Falcon. – In: IANKOV, P. (ed.): Atlas of Breeding Birds in Bulgaria. Bulgarian Society of the Protection of Birds, Conservation Series, Book 10. Sofia, BSPB, 184-185.
- STOYCHEV, S., BOEV, Z. & DELOV, V. (2007): Тракийски кеклик *Alectoris chukar* Chukar. – In: IANKOV, P. (ed.): Atlas of Breeding Birds in Bulgaria. Bulgarian Society of the Protection of Birds, Conservation Series, Book 10. Sofia, BSPB, 196-197.

CZECH REPUBLIC

JIRÍ MLÍKOVSKÝ continues his studies on Cenozoic birds. However, much of his time has been recently occupied with cataloguing ornithological collections housed at the National Museum in Praha.

- MLÍKOVSKÝ, J. (2005): On the alleged breeding of Great Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) in Bohemia in the 17th century. – *Sylvia*, 41: 137-139.
- MLÍKOVSKÝ, J. (2005): Evidence for hawking in early Medieval Czechia. – *Buteo*, 14: 53-56.
- MLÍKOVSKÝ, J. (2005): Did Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) breed north of the Alps in the past 200 years? – *Buteo*, 14: 57-59.
- MLÍKOVSKÝ, J. (2005): O údajném nálezu kukačky dešťové (*Coccyzus americanus*) v České republice [On the alleged record of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) in the Czech Republic]. – *Crex*, 25: 127-128. [In Czech.]
- MLÍKOVSKÝ, J. (2006): Black Lark or black Lark? A

historical record from England. – *British Birds*, 99: 262-263.

- MLÍKOVSKÝ, J. (2006): Nomenclatural and taxonomic status of birds described by Johan Peter Falck in 1786. – *Časopis Národního Muzea, Řada Přírodovědná*, 175: 17-25.
- MLÍKOVSKÝ, J. (2006): Subfossil birds of Andrahomana, southeastern Madagascar. – *Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museums in Wien, (A)* 107: 87-92.
- MLÍKOVSKÝ, J. (2006): Egg size in birds of southern Bohemia: an analysis of Rudolf Prázný's collection. – *Sylvia*, 42: 112-116.
- MLÍKOVSKÝ, J. (2007): Taxonomic identity of *Eostega lebedinskyi* Lambrecht, 1929 (Aves) from the middle Eocene of Romania. – *Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museums in Wien, (A)* 109: 1-9.

DENMARK

BENT LINDOW has begun a two-year postdoctoral study at the Natural History Museum of Denmark, where he is working on a number of bird fossils from the early-middle Eocene Lillebælt Clay Formation of Denmark. Almost two-thirds of the fossils are isolated skulls preserved three-dimensionally in clay ironstone concretions. A preliminary investigation has revealed the presence of at least one odontopterygid, remains of lithornithids and an as-yet undetermined new taxon possessing a massive, parrot-like, but laterally flattened beak. In addition to this, Bent is gradually publishing the fossil bird material from the early Eocene Fur Formation, which he studied in his Ph.D.-project. So far he has published on fossil galliform birds together with Gareth Dyke, psittaciform bird fossils with David Waterhouse, Nikita Zelenkov and Gareth Dyke, while a description of a small charadriiform-like bird written together with Sara Bertelli, Luis Chiappe and Gareth Dyke is forthcoming. All the while, new material continues to be found in the Fur Formation, including new galliform and charadriiform material.

- BERTELLI, S., LINDOW, B.E.K., DYKE, G.J. & CHIAPPE, L.M. (in press): A well-preserved 'charadriiform-like' fossil bird from the Early Eocene Fur Formation of Denmark. – *Palaeontology*.
- LINDOW, B.E.K. (2008): *Archaeopteryx*. – In: REGAL, B. (ed.): Icons of Evolution. An Encyclopedia of People, Evidence, and Controversies. Volume II. – Greenwood Press: 361-388.
- LINDOW, B.E.K. (2008): [Review of] Extinct Birds of New Zealand. Alan Tennyson and Paul Martinson. – *The Palaeontological Association Newsletter* 68: 112-115.
- LINDOW, B.E.K. & DYKE, G.J. (2007): A small galliform bird from the Lower Eocene Fur Formation. – *Bulletin of the Geological Society of Denmark* 55: 59-63.
- WATERHOUSE, D.M., LINDOW, B.E.K., ZELENKOV, N.V. & DYKE, G.J. (2008): Two new fossil parrots (Psittaciformes) from the Lower Eocene Fur Formation of Denmark. – *Palaeontology* 51(2): 575-582.

FRANCE

ESTELLE BOURDON is finishing her postdoc at the Collège de France (Paris) about the phylogeny and bone histology of ratite birds. The results of this research project were presented at the last SAPE meeting (Sydney, August 2008). She is still working on some Palaeogene avian remains from Morocco. In January 2009, she will begin another postdoc at the American Museum of Natural History (New York) to work on the phylogeny of 'higher land birds' together with Joel Cracraft.

CÉCILE MOURER-CAUVIRÉ has mainly worked on a systematic study of the birds from the Late Pliocene of Ahl al Oughlam, Morocco, that she would like to submit for the Proceedings of the 7th International Meeting of the SAPE, in Sydney, Australia. A first study concerning a part of this avifauna has been submitted for the Proceedings of the 6th International Meeting of the SAPE, at Quillan, France, but, unfortunately, is still unpublished, although the proofs have been corrected in June 2008. The study of the birds from the Early Miocene of the Northern Sperrgebiet, in Namibia (localities of Elisabethfeld, Fiskus, Grillental and Langental) is still unpublished either. A large part of Cécile's activity is still used to make reviews of manuscripts concerning avian paleontology.

GÖHLICH, U.B. & MOURER-CAUVIRÉ, C. (2008): A new cormorant (Aves, Phalacrocoracoidea) from the lower Miocene of Southern Germany. – Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution, 7th International Meeting, 18-22 August 2008, Sydney. Abstract and Poster.

LOUCHART, A. (2008): Emergence of long distance bird migrations: a new model integrating global climate

changes. – *Naturwissenschaften*, online first [DOI: 10.1007/s00114-008-0435-3].

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GERMANY

ALBRECHT MANEGOLD applied successfully for a postdoc fellowship of the German National Academy of Science, Leopoldina, which allows him to study passerines from the early Pliocene of South Africa at the Iziko South African Museum, Cape Town. First results were presented at the 7th International SAPE Meeting in Sydney and at the 15th Biennial Conference of the Palaeontological Society of Southern Africa in Matjiesfontein. He is also working on the phylogenetic relationships of corvids based on morphology, and prepares manuscripts on the stem species pattern of passeriform birds.

GERALD MAYR finished the descriptions of a large pelagornithid sternum from the Miocene of Portugal (together with Kees Hazevoet, Mario Cachao, and Pedro Dantas), and a pelagornithid skull from the London Clay. For the SAPE meeting, he prepared a manuscript on new bird specimens from Messel with "tuberculated" cervical vertebrae. Otherwise, Gerald has been much occupied in completing a book on the Paleogene fossil record of birds, which will hopefully appear in the course of 2009.

PETER WELLNHOFER held an oral presentation on the "History of research on *Archaeopteryx* and its relations with dinosaurs" on the Conference of the History of Geology Group, London, 6 - 7 May 2008 (papers will be printed as a Special Publication of the Geological Society, London, approx. in 2009).

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NEW ZEALAND

BRIAN GILL (Auckland War Memorial Museum) has continued work on moa eggshells (Dinornithiformes). He began with a detailed study of eggshell fragments from one site, and this included partly-successful attempts to estimate the size of eggs from eggshell curvature (Gill 2000). He then studied whole moa eggs so as to be able to assess shell thickness in relation to egg length. This yielded a catalogue of the 36 whole moa eggs that he was able to track down in the collections of New Zealand and overseas museums (Gill 2006), and some analytical data on shell thickness (Gill 2007). There was a general positive correlation between egg size and shell thickness. The current phase is a comparison of eggshell samples from eight palaeontological and archaeological sites from throughout New Zealand, to see if histograms of shell thicknesses can give a picture of the kinds (sizes) of moas present, and their relative abundances. Finally, he will attempt to produce a key that will help palaeontologists and archaeologists to assign eggshell fragments to thickness classes. In recent years the osteological collection at Auckland Museum has seen the addition of numerous bird skeletons, mostly prepared from local birds, and the collection now numbers 2700 birds. Included among recent additions were 90 lots of Holocene fossil bird bones from the Chatham Islands, a locality previously poorly represented in the Auckland collection.

Since taking over as curator of Vertebrate Zoology at Canterbury Museum in Christchurch in 2001, PAUL SCOFIELD has reorganised the collections and has become heavily involved in work on moa and excavations at the Miocene, St Bathans' site in Central Otago. He is currently working on heron material from

this site in collaboration with Trevor Worthy of Adelaide and New South Wales Universities and Alan Tennyson from the Museum of New Zealand. Excavations at St Bathans site will continue in January 2009.

ALAN TENNYSON'S main bird fossil project is now the St Bathans Miocene fauna. He is working mainly with Trevor Worthy, Paul Scofield and Australians primarily from the University of New South Wales.

TREVOR WORTHY continued work on Tertiary projects in 2007-2008. A profitable field trip was held to Lake Pinpa, in the Frome Basin, South Australia, where many fossil birds of Oligo-Miocene age were collected with Aaron Camens. Notable among these were a good series of phalacrocoracids of two species, but anatids, rallids, charadriiforms and phoenicopteriforms were also found. The second major field trip of the St Bathans Fauna (NZ, Miocene) joint University of New South Wales, University of Adelaide, Museum of New Zealand, Te Papa (NZ) and Canterbury Museum (NZ) project was held in January 2008. The excavations in three quarries this year sampled slightly different depositional environments and continue to yield new bird taxa. Notable finds include the first palaelodid for NZ, several bones of an acanthisittid wren the size of rifleman, a complete columbid coracoid, more bones of a heron, the first crania for the anatids (one each of *Manuherikia lacustrina* and *M. minuta*), and more specimens of anserines bringing to 8 the number of anseriforms. In addition to hundreds of avian specimens collected, many crocodylian bones, squamates, a sphenodontids, frogs and bats were also found. In the office, analyses of the Tertiary anseriforms of New Zealand continued with phylogenetic projects on the NZ anseriforms and new anseriform material

published. Similarly, I have completed studies on Australian Tertiary faunas with a paper on Pliocene material published, with two papers in press describing Oligo-Miocene anseriforms. These involve a detailed phylogenetic analysis of anseriforms from which I advance an hypothesis of an enlarged definition of oxyurines whose members dominated Oligo-Miocene anseriform faunas. While not exactly on birds, I contributed to a paper (with an extensive supplementary dataset of radiocarbon dates on birds) establishing the arrival of humans and commensal rats in NZ at about 1280 AD, and thus the timing of extinction is limited to the last 750 years for so affected birds in NZ.

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POLAND

ZYGMUNT BOCHENSKI, although retired, continues his work on the "History of Polish bird fauna" – a long-term project that he hopes to complete next year.

ZBIGNIEW M. BOCHENSKI, together with Ken Campbell, prepared a manuscript on the extinct "*Strix*" *brea*, and together with Teresa Tomek worked on a

manual to the remains of domestic birds in Europe – both topics were presented at the Sydney meeting.

TERESA TOMEK worked on various zooarchaeological materials including sites in Poland, Greece, Czech Republic and Estonia. She works also with Zbigniew on a manual to domestic birds.

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RUSSIA

- NIKITA ZELENKOV proceeds with Neogene birds from Central Asia. He is restudying old material and describes new material, mainly from Miocene and Pliocene Mongolia. He is also studying functional aspects of the evolution of the higher land birds.
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- KUROCHKIN, E.N. (2006): Mikhail Alexandrovich Menzbir – epocha v Rossiiskoi Ornitologii (1855-1935) – *Zoologicheskii Zhurnal*, 85: 260-265. (in Russian)
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- KUROCHKIN, E.N. (2007): Forefathers of feathered kingdom – *Vokrug Sveta*, № 2: 88-93. (in Russian)
- KUROCHKIN, E.N. (2008): Rodstvennye svyazi I istoricheskoe razvitie amerikanskikh katartid (Cathartidae) i tertornitid (Teratornithidae) – In: Galushin V.M. (ed.): *Izuchenie i okhrana khitzykh ptiz Severnoi Evrazii. Materialy V mezhdunarodnoi konferentsii po khitzykh ptizam Severnoi Evrazii, Ivanovo 4-7 fevralia 2008*. Ivanovo: Publ. Ivanovo State University, 10-12. (in Russian)
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SOUTH AFRICA

Anusuya CHINSAMY-TURAN, has published a book on South African dinosaurs. "Famous Dinosaurs of Africa" (ISBN 9781770075887) is written for children, but has broad appeal for anyone interested in learning more about dinosaurs. A brief general introduction is followed by short chapters on dinosaur species, among them those that were fish-eating, sociable, predatory, etc, as well as those that were cannibals, and the biggest meat-eating dinosaur of all time – the thread being that

they all come from Africa. Details are given about where they were found, the meaning of their scientific names, and their size and diet. Spectacular, colourful illustrations bring the creatures vividly to life; photographs, maps and line drawings further illustrate the subject, while 'Unsolved' and 'Up close' panels add to the intrigue.

SWEDEN

PER ERICSON continues to work on the higher-level systematics of birds using molecular data. Together with Johan Dalsätt he also collaborates with Zhonghe Zhou on Mesozoic birds from China.

TOMMY TYRBERG is continuing his studies on the evolution of avifaunas during the Pleistocene and Holocene. He attended the SAPE meeting in Sydney in August and presented a paper on "Avifaunal responses to Interglacial high temperatures".

During the meeting it was decided that he will take over as webmaster for the SAPE website, after Per Ericson. It was also decided that the "Avian Paleontological Literature Online" archive on the SAPE site (<http://www2.nrm.se/ve/birds/sape/litt001.html.en>) which has up till now only consisted of links to papers and books on other sites (about 3000 links at the moment), will in the future also be used to deposit files of paleornithological papers. If SAPE members have any such papers that are not yet available online, and have no copyright restrictions, they are therefore urged to send these to tommy.tyrberg@norrkoping.mail.telia.com If the files are very large (>10 mb), please send an email first.

ERICSON, P.G.P. (2008): Current perspectives on the evolution of birds. – *Contributions to Zoology*, 77: 109-116.

FUCHS, J., ERICSON, P.G.P. & PASQUET, E. (2008): Mitochondrial phylogeographic structure of the White-browed Piculet (*Sasia ochracea*): cryptic genetic differentiation and endemism in Indochina. – *Journal of Biogeography*, 35: 565-575.

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OHLSON, J.I., FJELDSA, J. & ERICSON, P.G.P. (2008): Tyrant flycatchers coming out in the open: phylogeny and ecological radiation of Tyrannidae (Aves, Passeriformes). – *Zoologica Scripta*, 37: 315-335.

OLSSON, U., ALSTRÖM, P., GELANG, M., ERICSON, P.G.P. & SUNDBERG, P. (2008): What is proper vouchering in phylogenetic studies of birds? – a reply to Peterson et al. (2007). – *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, 48: 383-385.

TYRBERG, T. (2008): The Late Pleistocene Continental Avian extinction – an evaluation of the fossil evidence. *Oryctos* 7, 245-265

ZUCCON, D., PASQUET, E. & ERICSON, P.G.P. (2008): Phylogenetic relationships among Palearctic-

Oriental starlings and mynas (genera *Sturnus* and *Acridotheres*: Sturnidae). – *Zoologica Scripta*, 37: 469-481.

UNITED STATES

Florida

DAVID STEADMAN, along with volunteers and Florida Museum of Natural History colleagues Arthur Poyer, Richard Hulbert, Erika Simons, Jonathan Bloch, Jennifer Nestler, and Natalie Wright, continues to excavate the Early Miocene (Hemingfordian land mammal age) Thomas Farm site in northern Florida. New taxa of birds, all represented by unassociated elements, continue to be discovered. The Thomas Farm avifauna now consists of at least 29 species, at least 20 of which are undescribed. A new genus of columbid and a new genus and species of cuckoo were described from Thomas Farm recently (Steadman 2008). Dave's other main 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. Dave also has been collaborating with molecular systematists on a higher-level phylogeny of living birds as part of NSF's *Assembling the Tree of Life* Program (see Hackett et al. 2008, Harshman et al. 2008). On islands, Dave continues to study reptile, bird, and mammal fossils from late Quaternary sites (cultural and non-cultural) in the West Indies (especially the Bahamas, Turks & Caicos Islands, Anguilla, Trinidad, and Tobago) and the tropical Pacific (especially Guam, Tonga, and the Austral Islands). Graduate student Natalie Wright is studying morphological and molecular differentiation between conspecific populations of landbirds on the continental islands of Trinidad and Tobago. Her results have been surprising from both a molecular and morphological standpoint in that the populations on Tobago generally are more different from those of Trinidad than one would surmise from traditional skin-based taxonomy.

Los Angeles

KEN CAMPBELL has continued working with the Rancho La Brea owls with Zbigniew Bochenski. The manuscript on "*Strix brea*" was completed in time for the SAPE meeting, and most of the descriptive work for two additional new species of owls has been finished. All of the Rancho La Brea owl research should be done by this time next year. Ken spoke about the La Brea owls at the SAPE meeting in Sydney, pointing out that there are more owls than vultures found in the tar pits and explaining why. Ken's collaborative work with Fritz Hertel has continued as they near the end of their research into modern avian balance, or why birds waddle. They have decided they have sufficient data and have now turned to writing up

Washington D.C.

HEARTY, P.J. & OLSON, S.L. (2008): Mega-highstand or megatsunami? Discussion of McMurtry et al. (Elevated marine deposits in Bermuda record a late

The UF skeleton collection continues to grow in its taxonomic and geographic coverage. We encourage colleagues to visit our facility.

HACKETT, S., KIMBALL, R.T., REDDY, S., BOWIE, R.C.K., BRAUN, E.L., BRAUN, M.J., CHOJNOWSKI, J.L., COX, W.A., HAN, K.-L., HARSHMAN, J., HUDDLESTON, C.J., MARKS, B.D., MIGLIA, K.J., MOORE, W.S., SHELDON, F.H., STEADMAN, D.W., WITT, C.C. & YURI, T. (2008): A phylogenomic study of birds reveals their evolutionary history. – *Science*, 320: 1763-1768.

HARSHMAN, J., BRAUN, E.L., BRAUN, M.J., HUDDLESTON, C.J., BOWIE, R.C.K., CHOJNOWSKI, J.L., HACKETT, S.J., HAN, K.-L., KIMBALL, R.T., MARKS, B.D., MIGLIA, K.J., MOORE, W.S., REDDY, S., SHELDON, F.H., STEADMAN, D.W., STEPPAN, S.J., WITT, C.C. & YURI, T. (2008): Phylogenomic evidence for multiple losses of flight in ratite birds. – *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA*, 105: 13462-13467.

STEADMAN, D.W. & JONES, S. (2007): Long-term trends in prehistoric fishing and hunting on Tobago, West Indies. – *Proceedings of the Twenty-First Congress of the International Association for Caribbean Archaeology*: 767-777.

STEADMAN, D.W. (2008): Doves (Columbidae) and cuckoos (Cuculidae) from the Early Miocene of Florida. – *Bulletin of the Florida Museum of Natural History*, 48: 1-16.

STEADMAN, D.W., FRANZ, R., MORGAN, G.S., ALBURY, N.A., KAKUK, B., BROAD, K., FRANZ, S.E., TINKER, K., PATEMAN, M.P., LOTT, T.A., JARZEN, D.M. & DILCHER, D.L. (2007): Exceptionally well-preserved late Quaternary plant and vertebrate fossils from a blue hole on Abaco, Bahamas. – *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA*, 104: 19897-19902.

the results of their work. Ken presented the detailed anatomical ground plan for the avian waddle as the "President's Lecture" at the SAPE meeting. Now that the system of balance in modern birds is understood, Ken and Fritz will turn their attention to fossil forms to see how far back in time the avian system of balance can be traced.

Ken was pleased to turn the President's gavel over to Per Ericson at the conclusion of the Business Meeting in Sydney, and he wishes all the best for Per and SAPE in the future. He thanks everyone for their support over the past years, and all who had a hand in the wonderful book on natural historians! He looks forward to seeing all at the next SAPE meeting, if not before!

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- OLSON, S.L. (2007): The "walking eagle" *Wetmoregyps daggetti* Miller---a scaled-up version of the Savanna Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis*. Pages 110-114, figures 1-3 in Carla Cicero and J. V. Remsen, Jr., editors. *Festschrift for Ned K. Johnson: geographic variation and evolution in birds*. – *Ornithological Monographs*, 63.
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