



# SOCIETY OF AVIAN PALEONTOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

- Newsletter -

n° 26, October 2012

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## GROUP PICTURE OF THE 2012 MEETING IN VIENNA



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### A welcome to 2012 from the President

It is now already a couple months since we had our 8th International Meeting of the Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution in Vienna on 11-16 June 2012. Given the relatively austere economic times, we had very good representation from throughout the world and the relatively small meeting ensured all got to meet and discuss projects and make plans for the future together, which after all is the most important outcome from such gatherings. On behalf of the Executive Council, I thank Ursula Göhlich and her helpers Li Ping, Olivier Maridet, Thomas Neubauer, and Peter Sziemer from the Naturhistorisches Museum Wien who organised and gave us a meeting to remember. We

also thank Christian Koberl, Director of the NHMW for enabling us to have our meeting in this grand venue which truly is one of the great natural history museums of the world.

Abstracts of the many interesting talks and posters can be found at the SAPE webpage: <http://www2.nrm.se/ve/birds/sape/proc001.html.en> and you will see there a photograph of the happy delegates. During the conference, the Society had its general meeting during which the Executive Council was elected as follows:

**Members at Large:** ERIC BUFFETAUT, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris, France; JOANNE

COOPER, Natural History Museum, Tring, UK; MARCO PAVIA, Museo di Geologia e Paleontologia, Torino, Italy; PAUL SCOFIELD, Canterbury Museum, Christchurch; NIKITA ZELENKOV, Borissiak Paleontological Institute of RAS, Moscow, Russia.

**Treasurer:** GARETH DYKE, University of Southampton, UK;

**Secretary:** GERALD MAYR, Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg, Frankfurt am Main, Germany;

**Vice President:** LUIS CHIAPPE, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A;

**President:** TREVOR WORTHY, Adelaide University, South Australia.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing President Per Ericson for his service to the Society over the last 8 years as first Vice President and then President. However, I am sure we will continue to see Per in Society forums for many years yet. I also thank David Steadman who has been the Society's Treasurer for more years than I can remember, at least 16 I think. Also, we thank the out-going members at large 2008-2012 (Estelle Bourdon, Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan, Ursula Göhlich, Marcel Van Tuinen, and Jorge Noriega) for being available to help run society business. However, last, but by no means least, I extend the Society's thanks to Gerald Mayr who has continued to produce the society's newsletter, the essential organ of communication among our members that he has ensured is distributed to all palaeornithologists.

During the meeting the subscription was confirmed as remaining the same at € 20 for the next 4 years. Since the meeting, the Council has transferred the Society Bank Account to a new account in the United Kingdom, where it will be managed by the new Treasurer. Subscriptions can now be paid electronically by Visa or other means – see the Society website. I thank Gareth Dyke and David Steadman for effecting this speedy and efficient transfer and reorganisation of the Society's accounts. During the Meeting we held an auction as is custom at these events and raised the grand sum of € 645. This money and that from previous auctions in Sydney and Quillan, will be pooled and contribute to a new fund that the Executive Council has formed – the Cécile Mourer-Chauviré Travel Grant – see elsewhere in this newsletter for details.

#### **SAPE future**

Once again we need to look towards the future of our Society and the role of SAPE in global paleontology. The previous president was concerned with our role and so am I. Both Luis and I are excited at the prospect that with our new team, namely the Executive Council, we can lead SAPE into a more

proactive era. First we must value our members more and towards that end we have now got a keen and active membership team that will ensure members once paid are immediately publicly recognised as such by listing on the Society website. We have already created the means for folk to join our ranks via a simple web-based system. Now, we are investigating ways of upgrading the Society's website, to increase its usefulness and ensure its long term stability, and if folk have ideas about this we of course welcome all suggestions. In a new initiative, we have established the Cécile Mourer-Chauviré Travel Grant as a first step towards the proactive support of students and other disadvantaged scholars in attending our meetings. Shortly, we will be commencing a campaign to raise funds for this. It was very good to see that quite a number of the attendees in the recent meeting were students and this is a trend we need to ensure is maintained and encouraged.

It was a point of discussion among several folk at the recent meeting that 4 years is too long between meetings. The Council agrees with this and we have been discussing ways to improve the situation. Clearly there are numerous competing palaeontological and ornithological forums, so as a first step it seems sensible to join one or two of these in some way. Thus we are looking at having some presence in the upcoming International Ornithological Congress in Japan in 2013, in the form of a SAPE symposium. Council would be keen to hear from members who may be interested in helping run such a symposium and flying the SAPE flag. Secondly, the European Association of Vertebrate Palaeontologists next meeting in France in 2013 is another venue where we can do the same. Eric Buffetaut is investigating the possibilities here for a SAPE presence.

Lastly, I would like to confirm that it is my and our Council's priority that we ensure SAPE remains relevant to all palaeornithologists and to this end we wish to enhance communication among ourselves, not just those who consider themselves palaeontologists but among all those interested in avian evolution and its end points in general. So please, if any folk have any ideas that might be relevant to SAPE we welcome them to contact anyone of the executive council and air their thoughts. We are widespread and hopefully just an email away. In this day and age collaboration, and especially multidisciplinary collaborations are increasingly important. Our small Society of widespread resources gives us a great opportunity in this.

Happy fossil hunting all.  
Trevor Worthy

## **2016 SAPE MEETING IN ARGENTINA**

In Vienna, Argentina has been elected as the venue of the next SAPE meeting in 2016. As yet no decision has been made about the exact location, which will be either Buenos Aires, La Plata, or Diamante. The organizing committee consists of Jorge Noriega,

Carolina Acosta Hospitaleche, Federico Agnolin, and Marcos Cenizo, and we all look forward to a SAPE meeting in a country with a long history of palaeornithological research and an amazing fossil record of birds.

## 2013 EVAP MEETING IN NORMANDY

Thanks to the initiative of Eric Buffetaut, there will be a session on avian palaeontology and evolution at the next meeting of the European Association of Vertebrate Paleontologists (EAVP), which will be held in Villers-sur-Mer (Normandy, France) from 11 to 15 June 2013. Eric has discussed the opportunity of having a SAPE-sponsored session on fossil birds with other EAVP board members and the idea has found support. This session could probably take up half a day of the

EAVP meeting, i.e., 6 to 7 presentations altogether, plus posters if needed. EAVP meetings have a very broad scope, as they encompass all of vertebrate palaeontology, so a special session on birds should be rather open, too. Further information will be distributed in due course and SAPE members interested in taking part at this meeting should contact Eric or one of the members of the SAPE board.

## TREASURERS REPORT AND PAYMENT OF SAPE DUES

The Society has maintained a healthy balance of funds (now £3149.84 or \$5000.30) which are now being curated at the University of Southampton. Discussions can now open as to what to do with these funds (see also below).

**Note that from now on It is also possible to pay your dues online at the following link:**

[http://store.southampton.ac.uk/browse/extra\\_info.asp?modid=1&prodid=759&deptid=46&compid=1&prodvarid=0&catid=75](http://store.southampton.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?modid=1&prodid=759&deptid=46&compid=1&prodvarid=0&catid=75)

## CÉCILE MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ TRAVEL GRANT

SAPE has the pleasure of announcing a newly established fund – the Cécile Mourer-Chauviré Travel Grant. The fund honors the prestigious career and outstanding dedication to mentoring of Cécile Mourer-Chauviré, SAPE's first Secretary and one of the Society's founding members. The scope of this fund is to provide travel aid to graduate students and other disadvantaged scholars presenting papers at SAPE meetings – applicants should contact members of the Executive Council to receive additional information and the application guidelines. Future proceeds from auctions will be allocated within this fund. Nonetheless, those who wish to contribute to this Fund can make

specific donations by contacting our Treasurer, Gareth Dyke.

Students are an integral part of our Society. The Executive Council feels strongly about providing financial assistance and increasing the participation of graduate students in future SAPE meetings. We encourage all professional members to contribute the additional funds that will sustain the Cécile Mourer-Chauviré Student Travel Grant and warrant its lasting impact.

## NEWS FROM THE MEMBERS AND RECENT PUBLICATIONS

### ARGENTINA

FEDERICO AGNOLIN is working on a new phylogenetic analysis of the "terror birds" (Phororhacoidea). This new analysis includes new taxa and characters, and the available evidence is reevaluated. This new phylogeny is in press in the Revista del Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales. In addition, he is describing new phorusrhacid material from the Miocene of Patagonia. Together with Fernando Novas, he is working on the early origin of birds and just finished a large paper regarding this topic, with the description of new specimens that shed light on the acquisition of flight and derived dinosaur phylogeny. Together with Marcos Cenizo he is describing and interpreting several new avian assemblages from the Neogene of Patagonia and Buenos Aires provinces, including the description of new taxa. Finally, in collaboration with Martin Ezcurra he is working on the Late Mesozoic and Early Tertiary palaeobiogeography of birds, in the light of their new, and recently proposed, palaeobiogeographic scheme.

AGNOLIN, F.L. & MARTINELLI, A.G. (2012): *Guaibasaurus candelariensis* (Dinosauria, Saurischia) an the early

origin of avian-like resting posture. – *Alcheringa*, 36: 263-267.

AGNOLIN, F. & NORIEGA, J.I. (2012): Una nueva especie de ñandú (Aves: Rheidae) del Mioceno tardío de la Mesopotamia argentina. – *Ameghiniana*, 49(1).

AGNOLIN, F.L. & TOMASSINI, R. (2012, in press): A fossil Dendrocygninae (Aves, Anatidae) from the Early Pliocene of the Argentine Pampas and its paleobiogeographical implications. – *Annales de Paléontologie*.

CHEBEZ, J.C. & AGNOLIN, F.L. (2012): *Holmbergphaga*, un nuevo género de Tyrannidae (Aves, Passeriformes) sudamericano. – *Historia Natural*, 2: 139-153.

CHIMENTO, N.R., AGNOLIN, F.L., GUERRERO, E.L., LÓPEZ, A.M. & LUCERO, R.F. (2012): Nuevos registros de aves y consideraciones sobre la extensión geográfica de los talaes al sur de la provincia de Buenos Aires. – *Nótulas Faunísticas*, 89: 1-12.

DEGRANGE, F.J., NORIEGA, J.I. & ARETA, J.I. (in press): Diversity and paleobiology of the Santacrucian birds. – In: VIZCAÍNO, S.F., KAY, R.F. & BARGO, M.S. (eds.): Early Miocene Paleobiology in Patagonia: high-

latitude paleocommunities of the Santa Cruz Formation, pp. 138-155. – Cambridge University Press.

EZCURRA, M.D. & AGNOLIN, F.L. (2012): A new global palaeobiogeographical model for the Late Mesozoic and Early Tertiary. – *Systematic Biology* 61(4): 553-566.

## AUSTRALIA

TREVOR WORTHY is now based at the University of Adelaide, in South Australia. Recent research maintains previous themes with a mixture mainly of projects on the Quaternary and the Early Miocene St Bathans Fauna of New Zealand, and the Australian Neogene. WALTER BOLES has officially retired, but is still will be working on fossil birds in his spare time from the Australian Museum. JACKIE NGUYEN (University of New South Wales, Sydney) continues to investigate the passerines of Riversleigh and NZ St Bathans Fauna for her PhD studies.

ELEN SHUTE (Flinders University, Adelaide) has taken up the challenge of describing Quaternary fossil birds from caves in the Nullabor region of Australia. TRAVIS PARK (Deakin University, Victoria, Australia) and ERICH FITZGERALD (Museum Victoria, Melbourne) have been investigating Pliocene birds from southern Australia.

ELZANOWSKI, A. & BOLES, W.E. (2012): Australia's oldest anseriform fossil: a quadrate from the Early Eocene Tingamarra Fauna. – *Palaeontology*, 55(4): 903-911.

LEE, M.S.Y. & WORTHY, T.H. (2012): Likelihood reinstates *Archaeopteryx* as a primitive bird. – *Biology Letters*, 8(2): 308-311.

FITZGERALD, E.M.G., PARK, T. & WORTHY, T.H. (2012): First giant bony-toothed bird (Pelagornithidae) from Australia. – *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 32: 971-974.

PARK, T. & FITZGERALD, E.M.G. (2012): A late Miocene–early Pliocene Mihirung bird (Aves: Dromornithidae) from Victoria, southeast Australia. – *Alcheringa: An Australasian Journal of Palaeontology*, DOI:10.1080/03115518.2012.663572.

SCHWARZHANS, W., SCOFIELD, R.P., TENNYSON, A.J.D., WORTHY, J.P. & WORTHY, T.H. (2012): Fish remains,

NOVAS, F.E., EZCURRA, M.D., AGNOLIN, F.L., POL, D. & ORTIZ, R. (2012): New Patagonian Cretaceous theropod sheds light about the early radiation of Coelurosauria. – *Revista del Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia"*, 14: 57-81.

mostly otoliths, from the non-marine Early Miocene of Otago, New Zealand. – *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica*, 57(2): 319-350.

WOOD, J.R., WILMSHURST, J.M., WAGSTAFF, S.J., WORTHY, T.H., RAWLENCE, N.J. & COOPER, A. (2012): High-resolution coproecology: using coprolites to reconstruct the habits and habitats of New Zealand's extinct upland moa (*Megalapteryx didinus*). – *PlosOne*, 7(6): e40025. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0040025.

WOOD, J.R., WILMSHURST, J.M., WORTHY, T.H. & COOPER, A. (2012): First coprolite evidence for the diet of *Anomalopteryx didiformis*, an extinct forest ratite from New Zealand. – *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*, 36(2).

WORTHY, T.H. (2011): Descriptions and phylogenetic relationships of a new genus and two new species of Oligo-Miocene cormorants (Aves: Phalacrocoracidae) from Australia. – *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*, 163: 277-314.

WORTHY, T.H. (2012): A phabine pigeon (Aves: Columbidae) from Oligo-Miocene Australia. *Emu*, 112: 23-31.

WORTHY, T.H. (2012): A new species of Oligo-Miocene darter (Aves: Anhingidae) from Australia". – *The Auk* 129: 96-104.

WORTHY, T.H. (2012): Book Review: *Extinct Birds*, by J. P. Hume and M. Walters. – *Emu*, 112: 179-180.

WORTHY, T.H. & SCOFIELD, R.P. (2012): Twenty-first century advances in knowledge of the biology of moa (Aves: Dinornithiformes): a new morphological analysis and diagnoses revised. – *New Zealand Journal of Zoology*, 39: 87-153.

WORTHY, T.H., TENNYSON, A.J.D. & SCOFIELD, R.P. (2011): An Early Miocene diversity of parrots (Aves, Strigopidae, Nestorinae) from New Zealand. – *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 31: 1102-1116.

## AUSTRIA

URSULA GÖHLICH (Vienna) organised and hosted the "8th International Meeting of the Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution", from 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at the Natural History Museum of Vienna, Austria. 52 participants from 19 countries attended the quadrennial meeting and presented 40 oral talks and 10 posters covering a wide range of topics in paleornithology. The subsequent proceedings volume is already under preparation (deadline for submitting manuscripts is 30<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2012) and will be published by the Natural History Museum of Vienna; publication is scheduled for 2013. Currently Ursula acts as a consultant for a life model of a terrorbird (*Paraphysonis*) that will enrich the paleontological exhibit at the Natural History Museum from end of 2012 on. Together with Peter BALLMANN she is finishing a manuscript on a new fossil barn owl from the Middle Miocene of Germany.

GÖHLICH, U.B. (2012): The making of...Terrorvogel. *Universum*, 9, Das Naturhistorische: 82.

HARZHAUSER, M., GÖHLICH, U., KROH, A., LUKENEDER, A. & MANDIC, O. (2011): Paleontology. – In: JOVANOVIĆ-KRUSPEL (Ed.): *Natural History Museum Vienna. Exhibition Guide, 1st Edition*, 70-105, Vienna (Natural History Museum).

HARZHAUSER, M., LUKENEDER, A., GÖHLICH, U.B., KROH, A., NICHTERL, T. & MANDIC, O. (2011). *Dinosaurier – Die schrecklichen Echten der Urzeit. – Saalführer, Naturhistorisches Museum Wien*, 1-44. ISBN 978-3-902421-57-9.

MERCERON, G., COSTEUR, L., MARIDET, O. RAMDARSHAN, A. & GÖHLICH, U.B. (2012). Multi-proxy approach detects heterogeneous habitats for Primates during the Miocene Climatic Optimum in Central Europe. – *Journal of Human Evolution*, 63: 150-161.

PAVIA, M., GÖHLICH, U.B. & MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. (2012): Description of the type-series of

*Palaeocryptonyx donnezani* Depéret, 1897 (Aves: Phasianidae) with the selection of the lectotype. – *Comptes Rendus Palevol*, 11: 257-263.

TASSY, P. & GÖHLICH, U.B. (2011): Retour sur la série type de *Gomphotherium angustidens* (Proboscidea,

Mammalia): de Daubenton à Cuvier, et après. – *Estudios Geológicos*, 67(2): 321-332.

## BULGARIA

BOEV, Z. (2011): Fossil avifauna of Greece and the Bulgarian contribution to its exploration. – In: POPOV, A. & SLAVOVA, S. (eds.): *Новости*. – *News, BAS*: 42-48.

BOEV, Z. (2011): Exploration of the Neogene birds of Bulgaria: achievements, conclusions and perspectives. – In: Batashev, M.S., MAKAROV, N.P. & MARTINOVICH, N.V. (eds.): *Devoted to Arkadiy Yakovlevich Tugarinov. A selection of scientific articles*. – Krasnoyarsk Regional Museum, Krasnoyarsk: 35-43.

BOEV, Z. (2011): Utilization of birds by Man (Materials of exploration of the utility importance of birds). – In: *Scientific Papers, Part II. Natural and Agriculture Sciences. Medicine. Natural Sciences. Medicine*. – Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, Jubilee National Scientific Conference with international participation "The Man and the Universe", October, 6th-8th, 2011, Smolyan, Bulgaria, pp. 356-369.

BOEV, Z. (2012): Ones of the earliest larks of Europe were flying over the former lands of Bulgaria. – In: POPOV, A. & SLAVOVA, S. (eds.): *Новости* – *News, BAS*, 64-70.

BOEV, Z. (2011): New fossil record of the Late Pliocene kestrel (*Falco bakalovi* Boev, 1999) from the type locality in Bulgaria. – *Geologica Balcanica*, 40(1-3): 13-30.

BOEV, Z. (2012): The paleontological locality near the town of Varshets - its scientific importance and

potential of tourism. – *Varshets Nsp.*, 7: 3 [in Bulgarian].

BOEV, Z. (2012): Ostriches in Bulgaria – ancient and modern. – *Priroda, BAS*, 1: 42-46 [in Bulgarian].

BOEV, Z. (2012): Unusual late mass occurrence of the Common Swift (*Apus apus* (Linnaeus, 1758)) (Aves: Apodidae) in Sofia (Bulgaria). – *ZooNotes*, 27: 1-2.

BOEV, Z. (2012): *Circaetus rhodopensis* sp. n. (Aves, Accipitriformes) from the Late Miocene of Hadzhidimovo (SW Bulgaria). – *Acta zoologica bulgarica*, 64(1): 5-12.

BOEV, Z. (2012): Sub-recent avian remains from two cave localities of the Devetashko Plateau (Lovech Region, CN Bulgaria). – *ZooNotes*, 31: 1-3.

BOEV, Z. (2012): Neogene Larks (Aves: Alaudidae (Vigors, 1825)) from Bulgaria. – *Acta zoologica bulgarica*, 64(3): 295-318.

MICHEV, T., BOEV, Z. & KAMBOUROVA-IVANOVA, N. (2011): Red List of the birds of Bulgaria. – In: *Scientific Papers, Part II. Natural and Agriculture Sciences. Medicine. Natural Sciences. Medicine*. – Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, Jubilee National Scientific Conference with international participation "The Man and the Universe", October, 6th-8th, 2011, Smolyan, Bulgaria.

SPASSOV, N. & BOEV, Z. (2012): Dr. Nikolay Iliev's 80th anniversary. – *Historia naturalis bulgarica*, 20: 40.

## FRANCE

DELPHINE ANGST started her PhD in October 2011 in the University Lyon 2 - Claude Bernard, about the biology of *Gastornis* Hébert 1855. This project is intended to better understand the paleoecology of this giant ground bird from the Eocene of Europe and North America. It is organized around three principal axes: a classical paleontology study, a geochemical approach and a 3D modeling. The paleontological study is about several new materials from France, comprising a new well preserved mandible from Berru, near Reims (North-East France), and new material including cranial and post cranial material from St Papoul (South France). This work will allow better understanding the diet, very controversial now, the type of locomotion, and the body mass, supervised by Eric Buffetaut (CNRS). The geochemical approach has several purposes: the mainly approach is to study the stable isotope of Carbon to determine the diet of *Gastornis*, and more specifically its trophic level. This analysis is on bones of *Gastornis*, and on teeth and bones of the animals associated on *Gastornis* on the different sites in Europe initially and perhaps in North America later. The second analysis is about the Oxygen isotope to study the paleo-climate, and more specifically the paleo-temperature in these sites to better understand the paleo-environment where this bird lived. These studies will be supervised by Christophe Lécuyer and Romain Amiot, in the Geochemical Laboratory in Lyon. The third approach is a 3D study, in particular a Finite Element analysis (FEA) of

the new mandible of *Gastornis* to understand the mechanical properties of this bone, both to see the plasticity of the mandible, than know possibilities of mobility of the articular part. This work is in collaboration and supervised by Karen Moreno, from the Universidad Austral de Chile. And another point studied in this PhD is the eggshell found in the Southern France (Var) and reported to *Gastornis*. The work consist on a synthesis of the very few old papers about it, new studies of the fossil sites, the study on the eggshell ornamentation, and mainly a isotopic analysis of azote to known the diet of this bird.

ERIC BUFFETAUT'S palaeornithological work has concentrated on two main topics: (1) Cretaceous birds, with the description (with D. Angst) of new material of *Gargantuavis* (a cervical vertebra from the Late Cretaceous of southern France) in *Geological Magazine*, and the debunking of *Samrukia nessovi*, a purported giant bird from Kazakhstan which has turned out to be based on pterosaur material (in *Annales de Paléontologie*). Eric has also started to work on an exceptionally well preserved new enantiornithine from the Late Cretaceous of China. (2) Early Tertiary giant birds, mainly in collaboration with Delphine Angst. This includes field work on the localities yielding large eggshell fragments in Provence, investigations about the palaeobiology of *Gastornis*, and the study of what appears to be a large phorusrhacid bird from the Middle Eocene of France (the so-called *Diatryma cotei*).

Comparisons of this material with South American forms have been made in collections in Argentina and England.

ANTOINE LOUCHART continued to work on diverse aspects of avian teeth and pseudo-teeth evolution, some of the data acquisitions taking more time than initially planned. After a review of avian tooth loss (now published), he is focusing on evo-devo aspects of avian dentitions and pseudo-dentitions, as well as separately on general aspects of avian nomenclature, all topics with publications in prep. Antoine continues in parallel to finalize earlier studies in insular evolution, as well as on fossils from Langebaanweg, for instance. In collaboration with Géraldine Garcia and Patrick Vignaud (Poitiers) a poster on chelonians and archosaurs from the Mio-Pliocene of Chad was presented at the International Symposium on Paleoanthropology in N'Djamena, Chad, 31 October - 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011. Together with Albrecht Manegold he continued publishing on fossil birds from Langebaanweg, having started investigations seven years ago for some groups. A description of a new woodpecker from this site is now published, dedicated to Nelson Mandela. Other groups involved other collaborations, including Andrzej Elzanowski on the South African fossil ostriches (in prep.). Other collaborations, especially for the SAPE meeting, concerned fossil *Tyto* of the Western Palearctic (Marco Pavia, Cécile Mourer), and a review of fossil birds from Langebaanweg with Albrecht. A list of the Corsican fossils in the Naturhistorisches Museum Basel (from Forsyth-Major excavation campaigns) is published in collaboration with Elisabeth Pereira and Sophie Lorenzo (Corsica).

CÉCILE MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ thanks the SAPE authorities who decided to dedicate this last meeting and the subsequent proceedings to her. She has been deeply touched by the recognition of her work and of the role she has played in the creation and the first years of existence of the SAPE. She thanks all the persons who have taken part in this meeting for their presence and for their expressions of friendship, and she thanks especially Ursula Göhlich for her work and for the perfect organization of this 8<sup>th</sup> International Meeting. The setting of Vienna was really magnificent and all the attendants have particularly appreciated the beauty of the city, and all the architectural and cultural masterpieces it contains. Cécile was happy to see that among the participants many young research workers were present and that, in Avian Paleontology, the continuity was thus ensured.

Since the last SAPE newsletter Cécile has worked on the papers that she presented during the meeting, on a small galliform and a very small cuculiform from the late early, or the early middle, Eocene of Tunisia, and on a roller from the classical early Miocene locality of Saint-Gérand-le-Puy, France. She has also submitted a paper for the memorial volume dedicated to Evgeny Kurochkin. This paper is a revision of the genus and species *Euronyctibius kurochkini*, from the late Eocene of the Phosphorites du Quercy, France.

## GERMANY

ALBRECHT MANEGOLD holds a fixed-term position at the Senckenberg Museum, Section of Ornithology, and continues studying birds from the Early Pliocene of Langebaanweg, South Africa, some of them in cooperation with Andrzej Elzanowski, Warsaw, Pippa Haarhoff, Langebaanweg, Antoine Louchart, Lyon, and Marco Pavia, Turin. Albrecht is also interested in the phylogeny of extant birds, and a paper dealing with the

A paper recently published describes the quadrate of a bird from the earliest Eocene of Australia. At the same time, the authors have studied the quadrate of the Dromornithidae, from the Pleistocene of Australia, and of the genus *Sylviornis* from the Pleistocene of New Caledonia. They came to the conclusion that the Dromornithidae are palaeognaths and that *Sylviornis* is an anseriform and certainly not a galliform. In these two families, Dromornithidae and Sylviornithidae, the quadrate is not the only known element. Almost all the elements of the skeleton are known, i.e. the cranium, the maxillary, the pterygoid, the palatine, the quadratojugal, the mandibula, and the entire post-cranial skeleton. In the case of *Sylviornis*, none of these elements has been used to see whether it shows the morphological characteristics of the Anseriformes or of the Galliformes. The authors indicate that the quadrate shows similarities with those of some Anseriformes, but also with those of some Galliformes, and shows a character which is unique amongst birds. If the authors had based their study on the palatines, for example, they would have obtained completely different results. When most of the elements of a taxon are known, it is not scientifically sound to base a study on a single element of it, neglecting all the other parts which constitute the whole of this organism.

BUFFETAUT, E. & ANGST, D. (2012): New evidence of a giant bird from the Late Cretaceous of France. – Geological Magazine.

LOUCHART, A. & VIRIOT, L. (2011): From snout to beak: the loss of teeth in birds. – Trends Ecol. Evol., 26(12): 663-673.

MANEGOLD, A. & LOUCHART, A. (2012): Biogeographic and paleoenvironmental implications of a new woodpecker species (Aves, Picidae) from the early Pliocene of South Africa. – J. Vertebr. Paleontol., 32(4): 926-938.

MAYR, G., ALVARENGA, H. & MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. (2011): Out of Africa: Fossils shed light on the origin of the hoatzin, an iconic Neotropical bird. – Naturwissenschaften, 98: 961-966.

PAVIA, M., GÖHLICH, U. B., & MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. (2012): Description of the type-series of *Palaeocryptonyx donnezani* Depéret, 1892 (Aves: Phasianidae) with the selection of a lectotype. – C. R. Palevol, 11: 257-263.

PAVIA, M. & MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. (2011): Redescription of *Tyto sanctialbani* (Lydekker, 1893) (Aves, Strigiformes) from its type locality of La Grive-Saint-Alban (middle Miocene, France). – Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology, 31(5): 1093-1101.

PEREIRA, E., LOUCHART, A. & LORENZO, S. (2010): Les collections corses, paléontologiques et archéologiques, de Ch.-Em. Forsyth-Major, entreposées au Musée d'Histoire Naturelle de Bâle (Suisse). – Bull. Soc. Sci. Hist. Nat. Corse, 734-735.

systematic position of *Hemicircus* woodpeckers and the evolution of certain adaptations for climbing and drilling in woodpeckers is currently in press.

GERALD MAYR finished a revision of the diomedeid bones from the Rupelian of Belgium. Together with Thierry Smith, he currently works on avian remains from the middle Paleocene of China.

- BERTELLI, S., CHIAPPE, L.M. & MAYR, G. (2011): A new Messel rail from the Early Eocene Fur Formation of Denmark (Aves, Messelornithidae). — *Journal of Systematic Palaeontology*, 9(4): 551-562.
- MANEGOLD, A. (in press): Two new parrot taxa (Psittaciformes) from the early Pliocene of Langebaanweg (South Africa) and their paleoecological implications. — *Ibis*.
- MANEGOLD, A. & TÖPFFER, T. (in press). The systematic position of *Hemicircus* (Picidae) and the evolution of adaptations for drilling and climbing up in true woodpeckers. — *Journal of Zoological Systematics and Evolutionary Research*.
- MANEGOLD, A. & LOUCHART, A. (2012): Biogeographical and palaeoenvironmental implications of a new woodpecker species (Picidae) from the early Pliocene of South Africa. — *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 32: 926-938.
- MANEGOLD, A. (2012): On the name of the Canary Blue Tit *Cyanistes teneriffae* from Gran Canaria. — *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club*, 132: 68.
- MAYR, G. (2011): Two-phase extinction of "Southern Hemispheric" birds in the Cenozoic of Europe and the origin of the Neotropic avifauna. — *Palaeobiodiversity and Palaeoenvironments*, 91: 325-333.
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- MAYR, G. & SMITH, T. (2012): A fossil albatross from the early Oligocene of the North Sea Basin. — *Auk*, 129(1): 87-95.
- MAYR, G. & ZVONOK, E. (2011): Middle Eocene Pelagornithidae and Gaviiformes (Aves) from the Ukrainian Paratethys. — *Palaeontology*, 54(6): 1347-1359.
- MAYR, G. & ZVONOK, E. (2012): A new genus and species of Pelagornithidae with well-preserved pseudodontition and further avian remains from the middle Eocene of the Ukraine. — *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 32(4): 914-925.
- WANG, M., MAYR, G., ZHANG, J. & ZHOU, Z. (2012): New bird remains from the Middle Eocene of Guangdong, China. — *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica*. doi: 10.4202/app.2011.0061.

## HUNGARY

EUGEN KESSLER attended the 8th International Meeting of SAPE in Vienna where he presented a poster entitled "On the aquatic origin of birds". During the year, he continued his work on the remains of passeriforms from the Neogene sites of Polgárdi, Csarnóta and Beremend in Hungary. He published a paper (in two parts) on Miocene avian remains from Northern Hungary, in which he described a number of new species, such as *Tadorna minor*, *Rallixrex litkensis*, *Galerida cserhatensis*, *Lullula neogradensis*, *Praealauda hevesensis*, *Anthus antecessens*, *Cinclus major*, *Turdicus minor*, *Muscicapa leganyii*, *Erithacus horusitzkyi*, *Luscinia praeluscinia*, *Certhia janossyi*, *Lanius schreteri*,

*Bombycilla hamori*, *Sturnus kretzoi*, and *Emberiza bartkoi*.

KESSLER, J. & HIR, J. (2012): Észak-Magyarország madárvilága a miocénben. I. rész (The avifauna in North Hungary during the Miocene. Part I). — *Földtani Közlöny*, 142(1): 445-468.

KESSLER, J. & HIR, J. (2012): Észak-Magyarország madárvilága a miocénben. II. rész (The avifauna in North Hungary during the Miocene. Part II). — *Földtani Közlöny*, 142(2): 149-168.

## ITALY

In the latest years, MARCO PAVIA worked on the Italian Pleistocene, with a particular focus on the locality of Pirro Nord, Southern Italy, where he co-directed the excavation from 2007 to 2009 and where thousands of vertebrate remains have been collected (unfortunately few bird bones). Meanwhile he continued to work on insular avifauna, in particular those from Sicily and Gargano area. The study of the latter one is still in progress, but he plans to end it within the year. More recently, he started to work on Neogene birds as two Late Miocene localities have been found in Piemonte, not far from Torino. After the SAPE meeting in Wien, thanks to P. Haarhoff and A. Manegold, he became part of the team studying the Langebaanweg fossil birds, in particular owls and vultures. Finally he would like to thank Ursula Göhlich and her colleagues for the perfect organization of the SAPE Meeting and all the SAPE Members for your confidence in electing him as Member of the SAPE Executive Council.

ANGELONE, C., COLOMBERO, S., ESU, D., GIUNTELLI, P., MARCOLINI, F., PAVIA, M., TRENKWADER, S., HOEK

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BEDETTI, C. & PAVIA, M. (2007): Reinterpretation of the Late Pleistocene Ingarano cave deposit based on the fossil bird associations (Apulia, South-Eastern Italy). — *Rivista Italiana di Paleontologia e Stratigrafia*, 113: 487-507.

GÖHLICH, U.B. & PAVIA, M. (2008): A new species of *Palaeortyx* (Aves: Galliformes: Phasianidae) from the Neogene of Gargano, Italy. — *Oryctos*, 7: 95-108.

PAVIA, G., BERTOK, C., CIAMPO, G., DI DONATO, V., MARTIRE, L., MASINI, F., PAVIA, M., SANTANGELO, N., TADDEI RUGGIERO, E. & ZUNINO, M. (2010): Tectono-

- sedimentary evolution of the Pliocene to Lower Pleistocene succession of the Apricena-Lesina-Poggio Imperiale quarrying district (western Gargano, southern Italy). – Italian Journal of Geoscience, 129: 132-155.
- PAVIA, M. (2007): The first occurrence of rock partridge *Alectoris graeca* (Meisner 1804) in Sicily and its palaeobiogeographical significance. – Avocetta, 131: 61-66.
- PAVIA, M. (2008): The evolution dynamics of the Strigiformes in the Mediterranean islands with the description of *Aegolius martae* n. sp. (Aves, Strigidae). – Quaternary International, 182: 80-89.
- PAVIA, M., GOHLICH, U.B. & MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. (2012): Description of the type-series of *Palaeocryptonyx donnezani* Depéret, 1892 (Aves: Phasianidae) with the selection of a lectotype. – Comptes Rendus Palevol, 11: 257-263.
- PAVIA, M., ZUNINO, M., COLTORTI, M., ANGELONE, C., ARZARELLO, M., BAGNUS, C., BELLUCCI, L., COLOMBERO, S., MARCOLINI, F., PERETTO, C., PETRONIO, C., PETRUCCI, M., PIERUCCINI, P., SARDELLA, R., TEMA, E., VILLIER, B. & PAVIA, G. (2011): Stratigraphical and palaeontological data from the Early Pleistocene Pirro Nord site of Pirro Nord (Puglia, south eastern Italy). – Quaternary International, 267: 40-55.
- PAVIA, M. & MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. (2011): Redescription of *Tyto sanctialbani* Lydekker, 1893 (Aves, Strigiformes), from its type locality of La Grive-Saint-Alban (Middle Miocene, France). – Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology, 31: 1093-1101.
- PETRUSO, D., CUSUMANO, M., DOMINA, D., PAVIA, M. & MASINI, F. (2008): Una valutazione tassonomica quantitativa preliminare della documentazione di vertebrati del Quaternario della Sicilia. – Atti Mus. Civico St. Nat. Trieste, 53 (suppl.): 189-232.
- PETRONIO, C., BELLARDINI, F., ARZARELLO, M., BEDETTI, C., BELLUCCI, L., CIPULLO, A., DI STEFANO, G., PANDOLFI, L., PAVIA, M., PETRUCCI, M., SARDELLA, R. & SALARI, L. (2008): The deposit of the Late Pleistocene from Avetrana (Taranto, Southern Italy): biochronology and palaeoecology. – Il Quaternario, 21: 409-422.
- VILLIER, B., PAVIA, M. & ROOK, L. (2011): New remains of *Paralutra garganensis* Willemsen, 1983 (Mustelidae, Lutrinae) from the Late Miocene “Terre Rosse” of Gargano (Apulia, Italy). – Bollettino della Società Paleontologica Italiana, 50: 135-143.
- ZUNINO, M., PAVIA, M., FERNANDEZ-LOPEZ, S.R. & PAVIA, G. (2012): Taphonomic analysis of the lower Pleistocene Pirro Nord fossil locality (Pirro 10 site, Puglia, Southern Italy): a depositional model for vertebrate assemblages in a karstic environment. – Palaios, 27: 3-18.
- ZUNINO, M., PAVIA, M., ARZARELLO, M., BERTOK, C., DI CARLO, M., DI DONATO, V., GRAZIANO, R., MATTEUCCI, R., NICOSIA, U., PETRONIO, C., PETRUCCI, M., PIGNATTI, J., RAGUSA, M., SACCHI, E., SARDELLA, R. & PAVIA, G. (2012): Il Gargano, un archivio della diversità geologica dal Mesozoico al Pleistocene Giornate di Paleontologia, IX Edizione – Apricena, 2009. Geological Field Trips, 4: 1-137.

## NEW ZEALAND

- ALAN TENNYSON (Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa) has begun writing up some of his Chatham Island fossil research with Jamie Wood (Landcare Research), studying live petrels in Vanuatu, and continuing collaborative work with Paul Scofield (Canterbury Museum) and Trevor Worthy (Adelaide University) on the rich St Bathans Miocene site in Otago.
- MISKELLY, C.M., SCOFIELD, R.P., SAGAR, P.M., TENNYSON, A.J.D., BELL, B.D. & BELL, E.A. (2011): Vagrant and extra-limital bird records accepted by the OSNZ Records Appraisal Committee 2008-2010. – Notornis, 58: 64-70.
- PALMA, R.L., TENNYSON, A.J.D., GASKIN, C.P. & JARAMILLO, A. (2012): The scientific name, author and date for the “Fuegian Storm-Petrel”, a subspecies of *Oceanites oceanicus* from southern South America. – Notornis, 59: 74-78.
- SCHWARZHANS, W., SCOFIELD, R.P., TENNYSON, A.J.D., WORTHY, J.P. & WORTHY, T.H. (2012): Fish remains, mostly otoliths, from the non-marine early Miocene of Otago, New Zealand. – Acta Palaeontologica Polonica, 57(2): 319-350.
- SHEPHERD, L.D., WORTHY, T.H., TENNYSON, A.J.D., SCOFIELD, R.P., RAMSTAD, K.M. & LAMBERT, D.M. (2012): Ancient DNA analyses reveal contrasting phylogeographic patterns amongst kiwi (*Apteryx* spp.) and a recently extinct lineage of spotted kiwi. – PLoS ONE, 7(8): e42384. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0042384.
- TENNYSON, A.J.D., MISKELLY, C.M. & TOTTERMAN, S.L. (2012): Observations of collared petrels (*Pterodroma brevipes*) on Vanua Lava, Vanuatu, and a review of the species' breeding distribution. – Notornis, 59: 39-48.

## POLAND

- ANDRZEJ ELZANOWSKI is working on ostrich bones, both fossil (from South Africa and Namibia) and extant.
- PIOTR JADWISZCZAK continues to work on Antarctic fossil penguins, partially in co-operation with Carolina Acosta Hospitaleche, Marcelo Reguero, Andrzej Gaździcki, Andrzej Tatur and Krzysztof Krajewski. Piotr acknowledges his recent (very fruitful) visit to the Museo de La Plata (Argentina), a home to the largest collection of fossil penguins ever. Thanks a lot, Carolina and Marcelo! Two papers have been awaiting publication since the last newsletter and another one is in review.
- BOCHENSKI, Z., BOCHENSKI, Z.M. & TOMEK, T. (2012): A history of Polish birds. Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals. – Kraków, pp. 226. ISBN 978-83-61358-44-2.
- BOCHENSKI, Z.M., TOMEK, T., BUJOCZEK, M. & WERTZ, K. (2011): A new passerine bird from the early Oligocene of Poland. – Journal of Ornithology, 152(4): 1045-1053. (Open Access).
- ELZANOWSKI, A. (2010): The ethical significance of evolution. – In: STELMACH, J., SONIEWICKA, M. & ZAŁUSKI, W. (eds): Legal Philosophy and the Challenges of Biosciences (Studies in the

- Philosophy of Law 4). – Jagiellonian University Publishers, Krakow, pp. 65-76.
- ELZANOWSKI, A. (2010): True Darwin's ethics. – *Lectiones et Acroases Philosophicae*, 3: 13-57.
- ELZANOWSKI, A. (2011): [Review of] *Animal Tool Behavior / The Use and Manufacture of Tools by Animals* (Shumaker, R.W., Walkup, K.R. & Beck, B.B., revised and updated edition). The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore 2011. XVI + 282 pp. – *Acta Ornithologica*, 46: 213-214.
- ELZANOWSKI, A. & BOLES, W. (2012): Australia's oldest anseriform fossil: a quadrate from the Early Eocene Tingamarra fauna. – *Palaeontology*, 55: 903-911
- ELZANOWSKI, A. & STIDHAM, T.A. (2010): Morphology of the quadrate in the Eocene anseriform *Presbyornis* and extant galloanserine birds. – *Journal of Morphology*, 271: 305-323.
- ELZANOWSKI, A. & STIDHAM, T.A. (2011): A galloanserine quadrate from the Late Cretaceous Lance Formation of Wyoming. – *The Auk*, 128: 138-145.
- JADWISZCZAK, P., KRAJEWSKI, K.P., PUSHINA, P., TATUR, A. & ZIELIŃSKI, G. (in press): The first record of fossil penguins from East Antarctica. – *Antarctic Science*.
- JADWISZCZAK, P. (in press): Taxonomic diversity of Eocene Antarctic penguins: A changing picture. In: *Antarctic Palaeoenvironments and Earth-Surface Processes*. – Geological Society Special Publications.
- PAŠKO, Ł., ERICSON, P.G.P. & ELZANOWSKI, A. (2011): Phylogenetic utility and evolution of indels: a study in neognathous birds. – *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, 61: 760-771.
- TOMEK, T., BOCHENSKI, Z.M., SOCHA, P. & STEFANIAK, K. (2012): Continuous 300,000-year fossil record: changes in the ornithofauna of Biśnik Cave, Poland. – *Palaeontologica Electronica*, 15(1): 2A: 20p. (Open Access).

## RUSSIA

After the unexpected death of Evgeny Kurochkin in December 2011, NIKITA ZELENKOV took over the administrative responsibilities concerning fossil birds in the Paleontological Institute of RAS (Moscow). The institute has just created a new administrative unit, "Cabinet of Paleornithology", with the special aim to develop avian paleontology research. Nikita Zelenkov is currently finishing a catalogue of fossil birds from the territory of the former USSR (a continuation of work initiated by Evgeny Kurochkin), and he is also preparing (together with Alexander Averianov and Walter Bock) a volume in the memory of Evgeny Kurochkin. The volume includes contributions in avian paleontology and is planned to be published as a special issue of *Paleontological Journal* in the fall of 2013.

- VOLKOVA, N.V. & ZELENKOV, N.V. (2012): Birds from a new Late Holocene site in the NorthWestern Altai, Siberia. – Abstracts of the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ICAZ Bird Working Group. Iași, Romania, pp. 38-39.
- ZELENKOV, N.V. (2011): Morphological hemiplasies in cladistics studies of phylogeny, with examples from birds. – *Biology Bulletin*, 38(9): 905-911.
- ZELENKOV, N.V. (2011): The anniversary of Evgeny Nikolaevich Kurochkin. – *Ornithologia*, 36: 251-253 [In Russian].

- ZELENKOV, N.V. (2012): A new duck from the middle Miocene of Mongolia, with comments on Miocene evolution of ducks. – *Paleontological Journal*, 46(5): 520-530.
- ZELENKOV, N.V. (2012, in press): Neogene ducks and geese (Aves: Anatidae) from the localities of Great Lake Depression, Western Mongolia. – *Paleontological Journal*, 46(6).
- ZELENKOV, N.V. (2012, in press): Cladistic analysis, evolution and paleontology. – *Modern Paleontology: classical and new methods* [In Russian with English Abstract].
- ZELENKOV, N.V. & KUROCHKIN, E.N. (2011): The current state of knowledge of the Central Asian Neogene birds. – In: MARTYNOVICH, N.V. (Ed.): *Arkadiyu Yakovlivechu Tugarinovu posvyaschyaetsya* [Dedicated to A.Ya. Tugarinov]. Krasnoyarsk, The Krasnoyarsk Regional Museum, pp. 44-70 [In Russian with English abstract].
- ZELENKOV, N.V. & KUROCHKIN, E.N. (2012): Dabbling ducks (Aves: Anatidae) from the middle Miocene of Mongolia. – *Paleontological Journal*, 46(4): 421-429.
- ZELENKOV, N.V. & KUROCHKIN, E.N. (2012): First representative Pliocene assemblage of passerine birds in Asia (Northern Mongolia and Russian Transbaikalia). – *Geobios*, 45(3): 323-334.

## SWITZERLAND

VANESA L. DE PIETRI will continue with her Post-Doc at the Natural History Museum in Basel, Switzerland, until March 2012. She is currently organizing the fossil bird material housed at the museum, including the vast amount of remains from Saint-Gérand-le-Puy, France. Further projects include CT scanning of several fossil skulls in the collection in collaboration with other researchers.

- DE PIETRI, V.L., & MAYR, G. (in press). An assesment of the diversity of early Miocene Scolopaci (Aves, Charadriiformes) from Saint-Gérand-le-Puy (Allier, France). – *Palaeontology*.

## UNITED KINGDOM

ESTELLE BOURDON is finishing her two-year postdoc (Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship) on avian brain evolution at the Natural History Museum London (NHM). Most of the results will be published in 2013.

JOANNE COOPER remains the curator of the avian anatomical collections at the Natural History Museum,

Tring. Between curatorial duties including preparing specimens and welcoming visitors, she is presently working on assemblages of Pleistocene birds from northern Morocco and Holocene birds from Puerto Rico. Closer to home, she is also helping compile a list of ancient British birds (c.180kaBP- 1800 AD) for

recognition as a formal category of the 'British List'. Finally, following the recent screening at the Vienna SAPE meeting of time-lapse films of bird skeleton preparation in the NHM beetle colonies, she is pleased to report that they are due to be available by the end of September on both the NHM website:

<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/index.html>  
and YouTube:

[http://www.youtube.com/user/naturalhistorymuseum?feature=results\\_main](http://www.youtube.com/user/naturalhistorymuseum?feature=results_main).

JULIAN PENDER HUME continues to work on the avifauna of the Mascarene Islands. Work in progress includes a monograph of the Mascarene Sturnidae, with one new species of fossil starling from Mauritius. The Mascarene island of Rodrigues is proving to be more diverse in avifauna than previously realized and a number of new, fossil species have been discovered. This includes a new species of *Hypsipetes* bulbul. Extant species occur on Mauritius and Réunion, so the Rodrigues taxon fills in the biogeographical gap, with each island once harbouring an endemic species. Comparative analysis of procellariid subfossil remains from Rodrigues Island is also complete, and concludes that an extremely large, now extinct petrel once occurred there. Initial examination of a single proximal humerus of cf. Abbott's Booby *Papasula abbotti* has shown that the extirpated Mascarene population of this taxon may warrant specific status. Finally, 2012 saw the publication of *Extinct Birds* by Julian Hume and Michael Walters, an ambitious project which details the extinction of birds over the last 700 years or more. It includes all species and subspecies known from skins, the fossil record, hypothetical accounts and those that are possibly extinct but data deficient. Also included are doubtful and invalid taxa and species thought extinct, but recently rediscovered. A total of 1057 taxa are covered in the book.

BARDET, N., GHEERBRANT, E., NOUBHANI, A. CAPPETTA, H., JOUVE, S., BOURDON, E., PEREDA SUBERBIOLA, X.,

JALIL, N.-E., VINCENT, P., HOUSSAYE, A., SOLÉ, F., EL HOUSSAINI, KH., ADNET, S., RAGE, J.-C., DE LAPPARENT DE BROIN, F., SUDRE, J., BOUYA, B. AMAGHZAZ M. & MESLOUH, S. (in press): Les Vertébrés des Phosphates crétacés-paléogènes (70,6 – 46,6 Ma) du Maroc. – Bulletin de la Société Géologique de France.

BOURDON, E. & CAPPETTA, H. (2012): Pseudo-toothed birds (Aves, Odontopterygiformes) from the Eocene phosphate deposits of Togo, Africa. – *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 32(4): 965-970.

BOURDON, E., MILNER, A.C. & WALSH, S.A. (2012): Virtual brain endocasts shed new light on the early evolution of modern birds (Neornithes). – online supplement to the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 32: 66.

HUME, J.P. (2011): Systematics, morphology, and ecology of pigeons and doves (Aves: Columbidae) of the Mascarene Islands, with three new species. – *Zootaxa*, 3124: 1-62.

HUME, J.P. & MIDDLETON, G. (2011): A preliminary vertebrate palaeontological cave survey of the Comoros Islands. – *Phelsuma*, 19: 26-40.

HUME, J.P. & WALTERS, M. (2012): *Extinct Birds*. – London: A & C Black (Poyser Imprint); 544 pp.

MEIJER, H.J.M., GILL, G., LOUW, P.G.B. D., HOEK OSTENDE, L.W.V.D., HUME, J.P. & RIJSDIJK, K.F. (2012): Dodo remains from an in situ context from Mare aux Songes, Mauritius. – *Naturwissenschaften*, 99(3): 177-84.

RIJSDIJK, K.F., ZINKE, J., DE LOUW, P.G.B., HUME, J.P., VAN DER PLICHT, J., HOOGHIEMSTRA, H., MEIJER, H.J.M., VONHOF, H.B., PORCH, N., FLORENS, F.B.V., BAIDER, C., v. GEEL, B., BRINKKEMPER, J., VERNIMMEN, T. & JANOO, A. (2011): Mid-Holocene (4200 kyr BP) mass mortalities in Mauritius (Mascarenes): Insular vertebrates resilient to climatic extremes but vulnerable to human impact. – *The Holocene*, 21(8): 1179-1194.

## UNITED STATES

### California

In the summer of 2011, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County inaugurated the museum's new Dinosaur Hall. It took a big portion of a good number of years of LUIS CHIAPPE's life (plus a lot of hair loss, if you can believe it!) to curate this two-gallery, 1400 square-meter permanent exhibition. Nonetheless, it was worth it: the exhibition looks beautiful, it received the "Excellence" award from the American Association of Museums (AAM), and hundreds of thousands of people have visited it already. Since then, Luis has resumed much of his research on the Early Cretaceous birds from China, collaborating with a number of Chinese institutions including the Beijing Natural History Museum, the Dalian Natural History Museum, the Capital Normal University in Beijing, and the Xinghai Museum of Prehistory in Dalian. Luis is also editing a scholarly book on the "Paleobiology of Early Birds" (University of California Press) and writing another book on the avifauna of the Jehol Group (Johns Hopkins University Press). One of his graduate students (Alyssa Bell from the University of Southern California) will defend her Ph. D. dissertation - a revision of the taxonomy and systematics of the Hesperornithiformes - next year. Another of his graduate students (Justin Hall,

also from USC) is studying how flight control and performance evolved during the non-avian maniraptoran-neornithine evolutionary transition, and master student Diana Pomeroy (Cal State, Long Beach) is conducting research on saepeornithids.

ALVARENGA, H., CHIAPPE, L.M. & BERTELLI, S. (2011): Phorusrhacids: the terror birds. *In* G. Dyke & G. Kaiser, *The Rise of Modern Birds*. – University of California Press, pp. 187-208.

BELL, A. & CHIAPPE, L.M. (2011): Statistical approach for inferring ecology of Mesozoic birds. – *Journal of Systematic Palaeontology* 9(1): 119-133.

BERTELLI, S.B., CHIAPPE, L.M. & MAYR, G. (2011): *Pellornis mikkelsenii* n. gen. n. sp., A new Messel rail from the Early Eocene Fur Formation of Denmark (Aves, Messelornithidae). – *Journal of Systematic Palaeontology* 9(4): 551–562.

CHIAPPE, L.M. (2012): *The Dinosaur Conspiracy* (Book review). – *BioScience* 62(8): 770-772.

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