



SOCIETY OF AVIAN PALEONTOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

- Newsletter -

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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, 2013 has disappeared and most of 2014, so it is about 2 years to go to our next meeting which will be in Argentina - see the announcement below. I guess the major event of the last 12 months was the publishing of the Proceedings of 8th SAPE meeting that was held in Vienna in 2012. This volume, produced by the Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, is due in large part to the efforts of Ursula Göhlich and Andreas Kroh who together did a wonderful job of assembling and editing the contained papers. To them and the museum I extend my thanks and those of SAPE members all.

Subscriptions: I would like to remind all that SAPE has a small subscription. This is currently 5 Euros per year, i.e. less than a beer, so I would urge those members who have yet to do so to check out our website (<http://www2.nrm.se/ve/birds/sape/list001.html.en>) and the link at the University of Southampton, and sign up their 20 Euro, which will take them through to 2016. This modest amount is necessary to cover a few outgoings such as web site costs and other administration things.

I would like to remind all members that SAPE will be awarding the Cécile Mourer-Chauviré travel grant/s to one or more attendees of the Argentina meeting in 2016. 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.

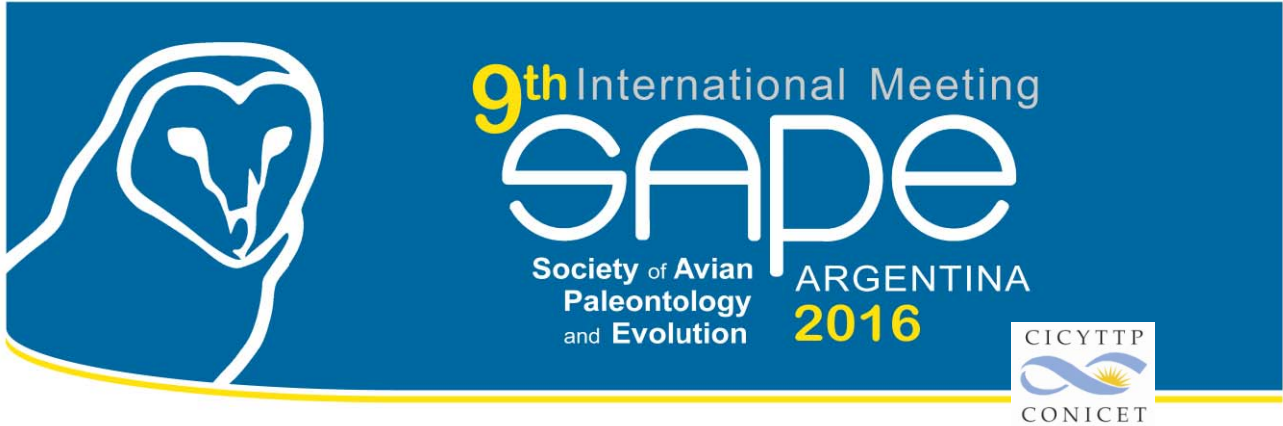
The 26th International Ornithological Congress 2014 was held in Tokyo in August and was a well-attended event with over 1100 ornithologists attending 5 days of sessions and associated field trips. Gerald Mayr organised a dedicated fossil bird symposium and such was the need for fossil bird talks that one plenary by Helen James and another whole session was devoted to presentations on fossil birds. I think about 20 or so avian palaeontologists were present and either presented talks or posters - a great turnout indeed. I certainly enjoyed meeting new and old faces alike and many an enjoyable meal was had with like-minded palaeornithologists.

Preparations have begun for our next meeting in Argentina in 2016 - see Announcement elsewhere in this newsletter. Work is proceeding on revamping the SAPE website with Jamie Wood recently joining up with Luis Chiappe and Dean Pentcheff to do this work. They will be targeting folk for input on specific elements.

TREVOR WORTHY

9TH INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF AVIAN PALEONTOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

Diamante, Argentina, 12-16 September 2016



The meeting will be hosted by and held at the Centro de Investigaciones Científicas y Transferencia de Tecnología a la Producción de Diamante (CICYTTP-CONICET). The CICYTTP is located in the city of Diamante (Entre Ríos Province, Argentina) which is erected on the cliffs high above the magnificent Paraná River.

- The 1st. Circular and the Registration Form will be available in the near future at:
<http://www.cicyttp.org.ar/sape2016.html>
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sape-Meeting-2016-Diamante/439452246131110?ref=stream>
- Tourist information is available on the following webpage: <http://www.diamante.tur.ar/>

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CLAUDIA P. TAMBUSI (CICTERRA, CONICET-UNC)

VACANT POSITIONS IN SAPE COMMITTEE

At the upcoming SAPE meeting in Argentina in 2016, two positions in the SAPE committee need to be filled by new members. With LUIS CHIAPPE, the current Vice President, becoming president of SAPE in 2016, we seek a new Vice-President. After 16 years, of being the Secretary of SAPE, GERALD MAYR has also tendered his resignation from this position.

Anyone interested in filling either of these two positions or wishing to apply to become a general council member is invited to apply to the chair of the nominations committee Paul Scofield
pscofield@canterburymuseum.com

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERS AND RECENT PUBLICATIONS

ARGENTINA

FEDERICO "DINO" DEGRANGE continues working on his passion: the "terror birds" (Cariamiformes, Phorusrhacidae). Through morpho-functional approaches, such as jaw muscle reconstruction and biomechanics, he is still studying the paleobiology of these outstanding birds. His main efforts this year were concentrated on the study of (paleo)neurology of zoophagous birds, using 3D reconstruction through computed tomographies. This led Federico to reconstruct the brain, inner ear, cranial nerves and blood vessel of several terror birds' species. Together with Claudia Tambussi and Daniel Ksepka, he studied the endocast of Antarctic Eocene penguins and the evolution of sensory organs in Sphenisciformes and together with Claudia, Julieta Carril and Juliana Benitez, he studied the endocast of extant neotropical parrots using anatomical and 3D geomorphometric approaches. He is also working with María C. Mosto and Ricardo De Mendoza in the study of raptorial birds' endocasts, using the same tools in order to study the correlation between the shape of the endocasts and the different strategies and mode of life of different groups of raptors.

NADIA HAIDR is starting her PhD with Dr. Carolina Acosta Hospitaleche and Dr. Flavio Quintana in functional morphology on extant and fossil penguins. Her work will focus on studying penguins of the genus *Spheniscus* and *Pygoscelis*, by means of geomorphometric analysis of the skeleton and anatomical studies of musculature, with the purpose of applying models found in these species to fossil penguins. In the past years, the focus of her studies as an undergraduate student involved descriptions and functional studies on cranial and mandibular remains of fossil penguins from the Eocene of Antarctica and Miocene of Patagonia, and on extant species of *Phalacrocorax*.

CAROLINA ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE continues working on fossil penguins, but also on other groups of birds. Most of the fossils under study come from the Cretaceous and Eocene of Antarctica, and some others from the Neogene of Argentina and Chile. Most of the studies point toward anatomical and morpho-functional approaches. However, several new Antarctic specimens of fossil Gaviiformes, Pelagornithidae and Procellariiformes are being described. She is working also in the organization of the next SAPE meeting that will take place in Argentina. Regarding her students, Juan Diederle is finishing his PhD on Anhingidae with Carolina and Jorge Noriega. The undergraduate student Nicolás Kass is working on comparative anatomy during the ontogeny of Emperor penguins from Antarctica.

Under the supervision of JORGE NORIEGA and D. Mazzanti, MARÍA ALEJANDRA FERNÁNDEZ OSUNA (CICYTTP-CONICET, Diamante) has started her PhD thesis project on late Pleistocene-Holocene avian remains coming from the archeological site Tixi Cave at eastern Tandilia hills (Buenos Aires Province, Argentina).

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2013): New crania from Seymour Island (Antarctica) that shed light on anatomy of Eocene penguins. – Polish Polar Research, 34:397-412.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2014): New penguin giant bones from Antarctica: systematic and paleobiological significance. – Comptes Rendus Palevol., 13: 555-560.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., GRIFFIN, M., ASENCIO, M., CIONE, A. & TAMBUSI, C. (2013): Middle Cenozoic penguins and shark remains from the Patagonian Cordillera. – Andean Geology, 40 (3): 490-503.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & REGUERO, M. (2014): *Palaeudyptes klekowskii*, the most complete penguin skeleton found in the Eocene of Antarctica: taxonomic remarks. – Geobios, 47: 77-85.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., REGUERO, M. & SCARANO, A. (2013): Main pathways in the evolution of Antarctic fossil penguins. – Journal of South American Earth Sciences, 43: 101-111.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., PAULINA CARABAJAL, A. & YURY-YÁÑEZ, R. E. (2014): Endocranial morphology of *Pygoscelis calderensis* (Aves, Spheniscidae) from the Neogene of Chile: remarks on brain morphology of modern *Pygoscelis*. – Historical Biology.

CARRIL, J., DEGRANGE, F.J. & TAMBUSI, C.P. (2014): Jaw muscle reconstruction of the late Pliocene psittaciform *Nandayus vorohuensis* from Argentina. – Ameghiniana, 51: 361-365.

CENIZO, M.M., NORIEGA, J.I. & REGUERO, M.A. (in press): A stem Falconiform bird from the Lower Eocene of Antarctica. – XXVIII Jornadas Argentinas de Paleontología Vertebrados, Zapala/El Chocón. Ameghiniana, abstracts.

CERDA, I.A., TAMBUSI, C.P. & DEGRANGE, F.J. (2014): Unexpected microanatomical variation among Antarctic Eocene stem penguins (Aves: Sphenisciformes). – Historical Biology. DOI: 10.1080/08912963.2014.896907

DEGRANGE, F.J., TAMBUSI, C.P., TAGLIORRETTI, M.L., DONDAS, A. & SCAGLIA, F. (in press): A new Mesembriornithinae (Aves, Phorusrhacidae) provides new insights into the phylogeny and sensory capabilities of terror birds. – Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology.

DIEDERLE, J.M. & NORIEGA, J.I. (2013): Las aves del Mioceno de la provincia de Entre Ríos. – In: BRANDONI, D. & NORIEGA, J.I. (eds.): El Neógeno de la Mesopotamia argentina. Volumen Especial de la A.P.A. n° 14: 97-108.

HAIDR, N. & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. 2014. Miocene Patagonian penguins: craniomandibular morphology and functional mechanics. – Alcheringa. 38: 273-280. DOI:10.1080/03115518.2014.870413.

JADWISZCZAK, P., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & REGUERO, M. (2013): A revision of the only Palaeocene penguin from Antarctica with remarks on early evolution of Sphenisciformes. – Ameghiniana. 50: 545-553.

JADWISZCZAK, P. & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2013): Distinguishing between two Antarctic species of Eocene *Palaeudyptes* penguins: a statistical approach using tarsometatarsi. – Polish Polar Research, 34: 237-252.

MAYR, G. & NORIEGA, J.I. (in press): A well-preserved partial skeleton of the poorly known early Miocene seriema *Noriegavis santacruzensis* (Aves, Cariamidae). – Acta Paleontologica Polonica; doi: 10.4202/app.00011.2013.

AUSTRALIA

The Flinders palaeo group at Flinders University in Adelaide finally took ownership of their new refurbished laboratories and office space. We have moved out of the basement onto the entry level of the main biology building and are the first thing visitors to Biology see. We are a dedicated vertebrate palaeontology group and birds are a primary focus along with mammals and fish. So if anyone is keen on working on fossil birds in Australia – you should check us out.

ELEN SHUTE is well into her PhD on the Early Pleistocene avifaunas from caves in the Nullarbor Plain in Southern Western Australia. With material up to about 1 million years old and several new taxa discovered, like giant coucals and megapodes, among a diverse fauna she will be busy over the next months revealing all this to all.

MIVESS MITRI completed his BSc Honours project on the digging ability of megapodes with an emphasis on *Sylviornis*.

WARREN HANDLEY nearly finished his BSC Honours project looking at the sexual dimorphism of *Dromornis stirtoni* from the 8 Ma Alcoota Local Fauna.

VANESA DE PIETRI moved from the Senckenberg Research Institute to Flinders University in South Australia to work on Early Miocene charadriiforms from St Bathans, New Zealand, and Australia, together with Paul Scofield, Alan Tennyson, and Trevor Worthy. Additionally she is working on several non-St Bathans related projects with New Zealanders Jamie Wood, Paul Scofield, and Alan Tennyson, and is collaborating with Chris Torres, Adam Smith, and others, on projects regarding the palaeoneuroanatomy of some Early Miocene birds.

For TREVOR WORTHY it seems like this has been a busy year with significant fieldwork and initiating projects. Flinders Palaeo lab hosted the CAVEPS 2013 conference last year (Conference on Australasian Vertebrate Evolution, Palaeontology and Systematics) which had a great turnout and a useful field trip into the deserts of South Australia looking at classical palaeo sites at Lake Palankarina (Late Oligocene - Early Miocene) and Cooper Creek (Pleistocene localities) finding significant bird fossils, as one does with 30 palaeos searching the ground. The annual field trip to St Bathans was in late January 2014 with a large team. They excavated several sites finding abundant hand specimens and brought home some 4.5 tonnes of fossiliferous sediment which is steadily being processed in the lab. Most of the wrapped fossils have still to be processed but early indications are we have yet another fossil duck but one from higher in the section than the main local fauna. On the dromornithid front, while Warren Handley has been assembling data to examine sexual dimorphism in Alcoota species, with Adam Yates Trevor has been trying to untangle the web of *Ibandornis* bones. There be two species, but like moas, both were erected on isolated bones, so rationalising what belongs to whom is a prerequisite for understanding species inter-relationships. To further that end Trevor has been developing a matrix of morphological characters that hopefully will inform on phylogenetic relationships of dromornithids and other fowl like *Sylviornis*. Trevor presented an initial analysis

of these data in Tokyo at the IOC. In August they had a successful trip to Lake Callabonna on the edge of the Simpson Desert. Over 3 weeks in July 2014 they located and excavated several part skeletons of *Genyornis*, with one in particular a great find. It had both femora, tibiotarsi, one tarsus and complete foot, part pelvis, one wing and half a sternum. Unfortunately it lacked cranial elements. The remaining specimens were mainly articulated lower legs so they now have a nice series of associated elements. Preparing these will be a priority over the next few months. The only other bird fossils found were a few emu feet, but hundreds of the giant marsupial *Diprotodon* were logged. On the publication front, the most exciting development was the discovery that elephant birds are in fact sister to kiwi among known ratites - this based on whole mitochondrial genomes so is a fairly robust conclusion.

DE PIETRI, V.L. & MAYR, G. (in press): The enigmatic *Ibidopodia* from the early Miocene of France - the first Neogene record of Cariamiformes (Aves) in Europe. – Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology.

DE PIETRI, V.L. & MAYR, G. (in press): The phylogenetic relationships of the Early Miocene stork *Grallavis edwardsi*, with comments on the interrelationships of living Ciconiidae (Aves). – Zoologica Scripta. DOI:10.1111/zsc.12074.

DE PIETRI, V.L. & MAYR, G. (in press): Reappraisal of early Miocene rails (Aves, Rallidae) from central France: diversity and character evolution. – Journal of Zoological Systematics and Evolutionary Research. DOI:10.1111/jzs.12074.

DE PIETRI, V.L. & SCOFIELD, R.P. (2014): The earliest European record of a Stone-curlew (Charadriiformes, Burhinidae) from the late Oligocene of France. – Journal of Ornithology, 155: 421-426.

LALAS, C., HAMEL, J., TENNYSON, A.J.D. & WORTHY, T.H. (2014): Southern extensions for Holocene records of Australian pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*) and New Zealand musk duck (*Biziura delautouri*) in New Zealand. – Notornis, 61: 106-108.

MAYR, G. & DE PIETRI, V.L. (2014): Earliest and first Northern Hemispheric hoatzin fossils substantiate Old World origin of a "Neotropic endemic". – Naturwissenschaften, 101: 143-148.

MITCHELL, K.J., LLAMAS, B., SOUBRIER, J., RAWLENCE, N.J., WORTHY, T.H., WOOD, J., LEE, M.S.Y. & COOPER, A. (2014): Ancient DNA reveals elephant birds and kiwi are sister taxa and clarifies ratite bird evolution. – Science, 344: 898-900.

NGUYEN, J.M.T., BOLES, W.E., WORTHY, T.H., HAND, S.J. & ARCHER M. (2014): New specimens of the logrunner *Orthonyx kaldowinyeri* (Passeriformes: Orthonychidae) from the Oligo-Miocene of Australia. – Alcheringa, 38(2): 245-255.

WORTHY, T.H., ANDERSON, A. & SAND, C. (2013): An extinct Austral snipe Aves: *Coenocorypha* from New Caledonia. – Emu, 113: 383-393.

WORTHY, T.H., HAND, S.J. & ARCHER, M. (2014): Phylogenetic relationships of the Australian Oligo-

Miocene ratite *Emuarius gidju* Casuariidae. – Integrative Zoology, 9: 148-166.
WORTHY, T.H., WORTHY, J.P., TENNYSON, A.J.D. & SCOFIELD, R.P. (2013): A bittern (Aves: Ardeidae)

from the Early Miocene of New Zealand. – Paleontological Journal, 47(11): 1331-1343.

AUSTRIA

The volume “Paleornithological Research 2013 - Proceedings of the 8th International Meeting of the Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution”, co-edited by URSULA GÖHLICH and ANDREAS KROH, was published in December 2013 as a special volume by the Natural History Museum Vienna. All articles are available open access by the following link: http://www.nhm-wien.ac.at/verlag/online_publicationen. Since then, Ursula Göhlich was predominantly dealing with different investigations on Miocene Mammals and co-authored several papers on this topic. Only one recent publication deals with a Sarmatian bird fauna (galliforms and a mousebird) from an Austrian locality.

AIGLSTORFER, M., GÖHLICH, U.B., BÖHME, M. & GROSS, M. (2014): A partial skeleton of a *Deinotherium* (Proboscidea, Mammalia) from the late Middle Miocene Gratkorn locality (Austria). – Palaeobiodiversity and Palaeoenvironments, 94: 49-70. DOI 10.1007/s12549-013-0140-x (published online 11. February 2014)

GÖHLICH, U.B. & GROSS, M. (2014): The Sarmatian (late Middle Miocene) avian fauna from Gratkorn, Austria. – Palaeobiodiversity and Palaeoenvironments, 94: 41-48. DOI 10.1007/s12549-013-0139-3 (published online 11. February 2014)

MARIDET, O., DAXNER-HÖCK, G., BADAMGARAV, D. & GÖHLICH, U.B. (2014): New discoveries of Sciurids (Rodentia, Mammalia) from the Valley of Lakes (Central Mongolia). – Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museums in Wien, 116: 271-291.

MARIDET, O., DAXNER-HÖCK, G., BADAMGARAV, D. & GÖHLICH, U.B. (2014): Cricetidae (Rodentia, Mammalia) from the Valley of Lakes (Central Mongolia): focus on the Miocene record. – Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museums in Wien, 116: 247-269.

GÖHLICH, U.B. & BALLMANN, P. (2013): A new barn owl (Aves: Strigiformes: Tytonidae) from the Middle Miocene of the Nördlinger Ries (Germany) with remarks on the history of the owls. – Pp 103-122 in: GÖHLICH, U.B. & KROH, A. (eds): Paleornithological Research 2013 – Proceedings of the 8th International Meeting of the Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution. – Vienna (Natural History Museum Vienna).

GÖHLICH, U.B. (2013): Cécile Mourer-Chauviré – life and works – Pp IX-XXX in: GÖHLICH, U.B. & KROH, A. (eds): Paleornithological Research 2013 – Proceedings of the 8th International Meeting of the Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution. Vienna (Natural History Museum Vienna).

GÖHLICH, U.B. & KROH, A. (eds) (2013):– Proceedings of the 8th International Meeting of the Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution. – p. I-XXX + 1-306, Vienna (Natural History Museum Vienna).

BULGARIA

ZLATOZAR BOEV participated at the project: “Urgent measures for conservation of the Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) in Bulgaria and Greece” (identification of prey remains). He further did joint researches with Prof. Dr. Evangelia Tsoukala and George Lazaridis (School of Geology, University of Thessaloniki) on the fossil remains from the Kryopigi locality (Chalkidiki, Greece), and was scientific tutor of tree PhD candidates [Dimitar Plachiyski: “Distribution of Eurasian Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus* Linnaeus, 1758) in Bulgaria depending on the landscape-ecological habitat characteristics”, Dobromir Dobrev: “Distribution and ecology of the Gryffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus* Hahlizl, 1783) in Bulgaria”].

BOEV, Z. (2013): Disappeared mammals in Bulgaria. – Priroda, BAS, Sofia, 4: 76-82. [in Bulgarian].

BOEV, Z. (2013): The paleontological locality of Pliocene fauna near the town of Slivnitsa. – Priroda, BAS, Sofia, 1: 26-31. [in Bulgarian].

BOEV, Z. (2013): Caves as a Nature’s archive of wildlife. - Priroda, BAS, Sofia, 2: 23-31. [in Bulgarian].

BOEV, Z. (2013): *Aquila kurochkini* sp. n., a New Late Pliocene Eagle (Aves, Accipitriformes) from Varshets (NW Bulgaria). – Paleontological Journal, 47: 1344-1354.

BOEV, Z. (2014): The foundation. 125-th Anniversary of the National Museum of Natural History of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. – Journal of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 1: 53-58.

BOEV, Z. (2014): Late Holocene distribution of the European Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis* (Linnaeus, 1761) in Bulgaria. – ZooNotes 54: 1-3

DEMERDZHIEV, D., DOBREV, D., ISFENDIYAROGLU, S., BOEV, Z., STOYCHEV, S., TERZIEV, N. & SPASOV, S. (2014): Distribution, abundance, breeding parameters, threats and prey preferences of the Eastern Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) in European Turkey. – Slovak Raptor Journal, 8(1): 17–25.

NEDYALCOV, N., LEVIN, A., DIXON, A. & BOEV, Z. (2014): Diet of Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*) and Eastern Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) from Central Kazakhstan. – Ecologia Balkanica, 6 (1): 25-30.

CANADA

The west coast of Canada is not particularly well-known for avian fossils but three bones turned up in Sooke Formation rocks near Victoria, British Columbia, in 2013.

These were the first coastal fossils since *Cyphornis* was discovered in 1894. The bones, two tibiotarsi and a coracoid, appear to belong to small members of the

Plotopteridae and are similar in size to those from contemporary cormorants. Bones of plotopterids from adjacent Washington state are an order of magnitude larger. One of the tibiotarsi is broken at the epiphysis suggesting a weakness at that point and that it belonged to a young bird from a nearby colony. Gary Kaiser,

Junya Watanabe, and Marji Johns have just completed an analysis of the material. Gary Kaiser and Gareth Dyke contributed a paper entitled 'The development of flight surfaces in the avian wing' to a special edition of *Zoologicheskii Zhurnal* (vol 93 No. 10 2014) commemorating the work of Evgeny Kurochkin.

FRANCE

ANTOINE LOUCHART is entering in October 2014 a new team (Paleogenomic and Evolution), affiliated to the Laboratoire d'Ecologie Alpine, Grenoble, but physically still at the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon (e-mail remains the same). This will allow him to work again on previous subjects: firstly insularity, and also birds of diverse Cenozoic localities in France and elsewhere, African fossil birds from hominid sites, etc, with many collaborations. He is also finishing two articles centered on bird teeth (finishing project), as well as a work about avian zoological nomenclature in collaboration with Alain Dubois (MNHN).

CÉCILE MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ has been very happy to receive, in December 2013, just before Christmas, the volume of the Proceedings of the 8th International Meeting of the SAPE, held in Vienna from 11 to 16 June 2012. She thanks very much the editors, Ursula Göhlich and Andreas Kroh, for their beautiful work. Since last year Cécile has worked, together with Estelle Bourdon, on the birds from the Early Eocene of La Borie, at Saint-Papoul, in southern France. The material includes mainly well-preserved remains of the giant bird *Gastornis*, and a few remains of a gruiform bird which has been attributed to the extinct North-American family Geranoididae. It is the first time that this family is recorded from a European locality. The material has been presented during the E.A.V.P. meeting, at Torino, Italy, in June 2014. The paper has been accepted by *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica* and is already published on line. Cécile has also worked on some fossil birds gathered by Martin Pickford and Brigitte Senut in the Middle Eocene of Namibia. This material includes the remains of a small galliform and of a small psittaciform. This psittaciform is known by a distal part of tarsometatarsus which shows that this bird was already fully zygodactyl.

BOURDON, E., MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. & LAURENT, Y. (2014): The birds (Aves) from the Early Eocene of La Borie, southern France. – *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica*, doi: 10.4202/ app.00083.2014

CREGUT-BONNOURE, E., ARGANT, J., BAILON, S., BOULBES, N., BOUVILLE, C., BUISSON-CATIL, J., DEBARD, E., DESCLAUX, E., FIETZKE, J., FOURVEL, J.-B., FRÈREBEAU, N., KUNTZ, D., KRZEPKOWSKA, J., LAUDET, F., LACHENAL, T., LATEUR, N., MANZANO, A., MARCISZAK, A., MARGARIT, X., MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C., OPLIGER, J., ROGER, T., TEACHER, A. & THINON, M. (2013): The karst of the Vaucluse, an exceptional record for the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) and the Late-glacial period palaeoenvironment of southeastern France. – *Quaternary international, Cave Bear Symposium*. doi: 10.1016/j.quaint.2013.10.058

DAVID, F., ENLOE, J., MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. & BIGNON-LAU, O. (2014): La faune: espèces chassées, consommées ou utilisées. – Pp. 77-80 in: *Un automne à Pincevent. Le campement magdalénien du niveau IV20, sous la direction de Michèle Julien et Claudine Karlin*. – *Mémoire de la Société préhistorique française*, 57.

DE PIETRI, V.L., MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C., MENKVELD-GFELLER, U., MEYER, C.A. & COSTEUR, L. (2013): An assessment of the Cenozoic fossil avifauna of Switzerland, with a description of two fossil owls. – *Swiss Journal of Geosciences*, 106: 187-197.

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GERMANY

ALBRECHT MANEGOLD is now in charge of the vertebrate collections at the Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde Karlsruhe. Together with Marco Pavia and Pippa Haarhoff he described a new species of *Aegypius* vulture (to be published in the forthcoming volume of JVP) and several species of owls from the early Pliocene of South Africa, and together with Nikita Zelenkov, he described another vulture from the Pliocene of Moldova. He and Lars Podsiadlowski also published on the systematic position of the Black-collared Lovebird using both morphological as well as molecular data.

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HUNGARY

During the last year, EUGEN KESSLER continued to prepare a guide regarding the identification of songbird bones from Central Europe. His paper entitled „Fossil

and subfossil bird remains and faunas from Carpathian Basin” will soon be published in the journal *Ornis Hungarica*.

ITALY

First of all, MARCO PAVIA would like to thank all the Palaeornithologists who attended the SAPE Session on the last EAVP Meeting (Torino, June 2014) and made it very successful. He continues the study of new Miocene and Pleistocene bird remains from Italy and Eritrea, the latter as part of a wider project on the locality of Buia, in the Danakil Depression, with the Italian Miocene findings being mainly from the site of Moncucco Torinese, but also from other localities. He is still working to increase the skeleton collection of the Torino University, with the preparation of many new skeletons and some exchanges, and is also trying to put all the data available on the web.

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NEW ZEALAND

In December 2013, after 31 years in the job, BRIAN GILL left his position as Curator of Land Vertebrates at Auckland Museum and has been succeeded by Dr Matt Rayner. Brian will continue at the museum part-time for two years to work on a project to enhance the electronic land vertebrates records, including fossils. He intends to continue research on moa eggshells (Dinornithiformes) and has been measuring shell thicknesses in large samples of eggshell fragments from further Holocene palaeontological sites and archaeological sites from the North Island of New Zealand. In 2012 Brian published a popular book, *The Owl that Fell from the Sky—Stories of a Museum Curator* (Awa Press, Wellington). It gives the tales behind selected museum objects, including the Late Holocene Kaikoura moa egg, and promotes in general the importance, usefulness and wonder of

natural history collections. It is available in hard-copy or as an e-book from the websites of international book-sellers.

PAUL SCOFIELD at Canterbury Museum in Christchurch had a busy year with the remediation of the palaeontology stores nearly complete following the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes. Research highlights included the description (with Gerald Mayr) of a new volant seabird from the Palaeocene of North Canterbury and a field trip into the Cooper Creek region of South Australia following the CAVEPS conference in Adelaide.

This year ALAN TENNYSON (Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington) has been busy curating an exhibition called *Tyrannosaurs – Meet the Family*. The show was originally put together by the Australian Museum (Sydney) and it will be Te Papa's

big summertime attraction, running from 27 Sept 2014 to 8 Feb 2015. Aside from other normal museum duties, he is continuing research on a range of fronts. Collaborations mainly with Lara Shepherd (Te Papa) and Nic Rawlence (Otago University) include investigating ancient DNA in Holocene fossil remains. Work primarily with Jamie Wood (Landcare Research, Christchurch), Paul Scofield (Canterbury Museum), Murray Williams (Wellington) and Nic Rawlence is examining Holocene extinctions on the Chatham Islands. Ongoing work continues at the rich Early Miocene St Bathans site (Otago), mainly in collaboration with Trevor Worthy & Vanesa De Pietri (Flinders University, Adelaide), and Paul Scofield. His other research is on the history and biology of living seabirds.

JAMIE WOOD reports that an exciting event this year has been the construction of a new, purpose-built ancient DNA laboratory at Landcare Research, Lincoln, NZ. This facility was designed to top specifications (including positive-pressurisation with hepa-filtered and UV-sterilised air, and nightly UV-irradiation of lab surfaces) and will provide our research group with increased capacity for research on extinct birds, and open doors to new international collaborations. Funding was obtained from the National Geographic Research and Exploration Committee to search for avian coprolite sites on New Zealand's North Island. Earlier this year we began this project by spending three weeks in an unsuccessful search for samples from a range of potential sites on the North Island (including sites in the Waitomo district, East Coast and Ruahine ranges) but have further fieldwork planned for early next year. However, we had greater success with the discovery of an exciting new site in the Central Otago region of the South Island, which is yielding thousands of small coprolites spanning the last 2,000 years (of passerines, parakeets, lizards and prehistoric rats). Collaborations are ongoing with Kieren Mitchell (University of Adelaide), Paul Scofield, and others, in using RNA-hybridisation to enrich and sequence trace DNA from bones of extinct birds. Species published on in the last year using this technique include Chatham Island duck (Mitchell et al. 2014a), Chatham Islands parrot (Wood et al. 2014) and elephant birds (Mitchell et al. 2014b). Projects currently underway involve mitogenome sequencing of extinct New Zealand wrens, rails, crows and laughing owl.



Celina Yapp and Jamie Wood recording excavation pit locations at Moa Nest Egg Cave in the North Island's Waitomo district



Janet Wilmshurst in search of coprolites in a dry rock shelter on the east coast of New Zealand's North Island

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RUSSIA

NIKITA ZELEKOV is continuing his research focusing on the Cenozoic birds of Eurasia, mostly on Neogene birds. He has completed a catalogue of the fossil birds from the territories of the former USSR and Mongolia. The book, which also will include revisions of the Crocodylia and Choristodera, is planned to be published in the fall of 2014. In 2013, a special issue of *Paleontological Journal* dedicated to the memory of the late Professor Evgeny Kurochkin was published (edited

by Nikita Zelenkov, Walter Bock and Alexander Averianov). The editors thank all the contributors and reviewers; the issue is available on the Springer website and also from Nikita Zelenkov upon personal requests. A conference on the evolutionary ornithology in memory of E.N. Kurochkin was also held at a biological station near Moscow in September 2013. A few experts in avian paleontology took part in this conference. The proceedings of the conference are

published as a volume of extended abstracts, and further a special issue of Zoologicheskij Zhurnal ("Zoological Journal" in Russian) containing papers from the conference (some of them on avian paleontology) will be published in the fall of 2014.

NATALIA VOLKOVA has joined the Cabinet of Paleornithology of Borissiak Paleontological institute of Russian Academy of Sciences in the spring of 2014. Natalia Volkova is currently finishing her PhD project on the functional morphology of the feeding apparatus in some passeriform birds, and she is also working on archaeological and Neogene bird materials.

KALYAKIN, M.V., ZELENKOV, N.V. & GAVRILOV, V.M., eds. (2013): Avian evolution: systematics, morphology, ecology, and behavior. Materials of the International conference in memory of E.N. Kurochkin. Moscow, KMK Press, 220 p.

MANEGOLD, A. & ZELENKOV, N.V. (in press): A new species of *Aegyptius* vulture from the early Pliocene of Moldova is the earliest unequivocal evidence of Aegyptiinae in Europe – *Paläontologische Zeitschrift*. DOI 10.1007/s12542-014-0242-4.

O'CONNOR, J.K. & ZELENKOV, N.V. (2013): The phylogenetic position of *Ambiortus*: the comparison with other birds from China – *Paleontological Journal*, 47: 1270-1281.

O'CONNOR, J.K., AVERIANOV, A.O. & ZELENKOV, N.V. (2014): A confuciusornithiform (Aves, Pygostylia)-like tarsometatarsus from the Early Cretaceous of Siberia and a discussion of the evolution of avian hind limb musculature – *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 34: 647-656.

VOLKOVA, N.V. & ZELENKOV, N.V. (2014): Avian remains from Marmot Cave, a new site in the North-West Altai, Siberia – *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology*, 24: 300-305.

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ZELENKOV, N.V. (2012): Neogene geese and ducks (Aves: Anatidae) from localities of the Great Lakes Depression, Western Mongolia – *Paleontological Journal*, 46: 607-619.

ZELENKOV, N.V. (2013): Cenozoic Phoenicopteriform birds from Central Asia – *Paleontological Journal*, 47: 1323-1330.

ZELENKOV, N.V. (2013): Miocene evolution of Eurasian ducks – *Casarca*, 16: 13-36 [in Russian with English summary].

ZELENKOV, N.V. (2013): Zoological problems of Quaternary paleornithology – *Zoologicheskij Zhurnal*, 92: 1077-1087. [in Russian with English summary].

ZELENKOV, N.V. (2013): The system of birds early in XXI Century – *Proc. Zoological inst. Russ. Acad. Sci., Suppl. 2*: 174-190. [in Russian with English summary].

ZELENKOV, N.V. (2013): New finds and revised taxa of early Pliocene birds from Western Mongolia – Pp 153-170 in: GÖHLICH, U.B. & KROH, A. (eds.): *Paleornithological Research 2013 – Proceedings of the 8th International Meeting of the Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution*. Natural History Museum Vienna, Vienna, 306 pp.

ZELENKOV, N.V. (2014): Stages in the evolution of modern taxonomic diversity of birds (based on paleontological data) – *Zoologicheskij Zhurnal*, 93 (10).

ZELENKOV, N.V. & BOCK, W.J., AVERIANOV, A.O., eds. (2013): On avian paleontology and evolution: in memory of Evgeny N. Kurochkin – *Paleontological Journal*, 47(11): 1231-1378.

ZELENKOV, N.V., BOCK, W.J. & AVERIANOV, A.O., (2013): Contribution to the field of avian paleontology by Evgeny Kurochkin (Introduction to the special issue) // *Paleontological Journal*, 47: 1231-1233.

ZELENKOV, N.V. & KUROCHKIN, E.N. (2014): Two new species of waterfowl (Aves: Anseriformes) from the Upper Pleistocene of Yakutia – the first fossil species of Quaternary birds from Russia – *Paleontological Journal*, 47(6).

ZELENKOV, N.V. & MARTYNOVICH N.V. (2012): The oldest avian fauna from Baikal – *Bajkalskij Zoologicheskij Zhurnal*, 3(11): 12-17. [in Russian with English summary].

ZELENKOV, N.V. & PANTELEYEV, A.V. (in press): Three bird taxa (Aves: Anatidae, Phasianidae, Scolopacidae) from the Late Miocene of the Sea of Azov (Southwestern Russia) – *Paläontologische Zeitschrift*. DOI 10.1007/s12542-014-0238-0.

ZINOVIEV, A.V. (2014): Preliminary observations on hindlimb myology and syndesmology of the Dodo (*Raphus cucullatus*, Columbiformes). – in: DELFINO, M., CARNEVALE, G. & PAVIA, M. (eds.): *Abstract book and field guide, XII Annual Meeting of the European Association of Vertebrate Palaeontologists*. Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali, Regione Piemonte, Torino. Torino: EAVP, p. 159.

SWEDEN

PER ERICSON continues to work on the higher-level systematics of birds using molecular data. Early this year he and co-authors (including Jacqueline Nguyen in Sydney, Australia) published a paper on the age of the passerine radiation using available, relevant fossils as calibration points.

BATALHA-FILHO, H., IRESTEDT, M., FJELDSÅ, J., ERICSON, P.G.P., SILVEIRA, L.F. & MIYAKI, C.Y. (2013): Molecular systematics and evolution of the *Synallaxis ruficapilla* complex (Aves: Furnariidae) in the Atlantic Forest. – *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, 67: 86-94.

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- OHLSON, J.I., FJELDSÅ, J. & ERICSON, P.G.P. (2013): Molecular phylogeny of the manakins (Aves: Passeriformes: Pipridae), with a new classification and the description of a new genus. – Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution, 69: 796-804.
- OHLSON, J.I., IRESTEDT, M., ERICSON, P.G.P. & FJELDSÅ, J. (2013): Phylogeny and classification of the New World suboscines (Aves, Passeriformes). – Zootaxa, 3613: 1-35.
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- QU, Y., ZHAO, H.-W., HAN, N., ZHOU, G., SONG, G., GAO, B., TIAN, S., ZHANG, J., ZHANG, R., MENG, X., ZHANG, Y., ZHANG, Y., ZHU, Y., WANG, W., LAMBERT, D., ERICSON, P.G.P., YEUNG, C., ZHU, H., JIANG, Z., LI, R. & LEI, F. (2013): Ground tit genome reveals avian adaptation to living at high altitudes in the Tibetan plateau. – Nature Communications, 4: 2071.

UNITED KINGDOM

JULIAN PENDER HUME continues to work on the avifauna of the Mascarene Islands and is presently working on a monograph on the Rallidae, with one new species, to add to his series of Mascarene bird monographs. Subfossil passerines continue to be a challenge, but recent analysis suggests at least 5 new taxa are present. As part of a Dutch team, a bid for a SVP memoir specifically dealing with the dodo was successful and will be published in 2015. This project includes the first 3D scanning of the only two associated dodos in existence. A recent trip to King Island, off Tasmania, resulted in the rediscovery of a fossil site and subfossil emu remains. A photograph and a hand drawn map from a 1910 paper was used to relocate the approximate area of the original fossil locality, the rest of the work was done by miles of walking. The presence of numerous tiger snakes made the hiking particularly interesting however!

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- HUME, J.P. (2014): A magnificent flying machine: the anatomy of the Passenger Pigeon *Ectopistes migratorius*. – Pp. 162-168 in FULLER, E. (ed): The Passenger Pigeon. Princeton University Press.
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- HUME, J.P. & VAN GROUW, H. (2014): Colour aberrations in some extinct and endangered birds. Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club 134(3): 168-193.
- WINTERS, R. & HUME, J.P. (2014): The dodo, the deer and a 1647 voyage to Japan. – Historical Biology: DOI: 10.1080/08912963.2014.884566