



SOCIETY OF AVIAN PALEONTOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

- Newsletter -

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DELEGATES TO THE 7TH INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF AVIAN PALEONTOLOGY AND EVOLUTION, SYDNEY, 18-23 AUGUST 2008



Front row (left to right): Gary Kaiser (USA), Jenny Worthy (Australia), Trevor Worthy (Australia), Ken Campbell (USA), Per Ericson (Sweden), Tommy Tyrberg (Sweden), Gerald Mayr (Germany).

Second row (left to right): Luis Chiappe (USA), Teresa Tomek (Poland), Zbigniew Bochenski (Poland), Ursula Göhlich (Austria), Albrecht Manegold (Germany), Ilka Weidig (Germany), Zhiheng Li (China), Hanneke Meijer (Netherlands), Kari Prassack (USA).

Third row (left to right): Alyssa Bell (USA), Priscilla Gaff (Australia), Estelle Bourdon (France), Paul Scofield (New Zealand), Alan Tennyson (New Zealand), Jackie Nguyen (Australia), Zhonghe Zhou (China), Brian Gill (New Zealand), Janette Norman (Australia).

Fourth row (left to right): Andrzej Elzanowski (Poland), Gillian Gibbs (New Zealand), Roger Close (Australia), Robert Jones (Australia), Anne Musser (Australia), Nic Rawlence (Australia), Kate McCarville (USA), Anita Gamauf (Austria), Alan Lamm (Australia).

Fifth row (left to right): Gareth Dyke (Ireland), Jingmai O'Connor (USA), Walter Boles (Australia).

Not shown: Sylvia Hope (USA), Mike Dickison (New Zealand), Matt Phillips (Australia), Les Christidis (Australia), Jaynia Sladek (Australia).

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERS AND RECENT PUBLICATIONS

ARGENTINA

CAROLINA ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE is working on marine avifaunas, including modern and fossil remains, with a particular emphasis on penguins from South America and Antarctica. Her main goal is the study of the skeleton and its functional implications in penguins and other seabirds. Regarding to that, she is working on the mechanic aspect of the coracoid in diving, comparing Miocene and Eocene species; and together Marcelo Reguero, the first articulated Antarctic penguin from the Eocene is being studied. Her student Nadia Haidr also works with the Antarctic penguin collection. Some taxonomic work has been done during these researches. One of the students, Lucía Ibáñez, has finished her graduate thesis about the cranial anatomy and its relationships with the salt gland in different taxa of birds. In collaboration with the paleontologists Alberto Cione and Leandro Pérez, she has finished analysis of feeding traces on penguin bones. Now, together with the botanist Gonzalo Marquez and the lichenologist Vilma Rosato, they are working on traces generated by lichen and root. The students of the Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Nicolás Kass, Andrea Vitalone and Mara Smichdt, are starting their new projects on morphometrics studies of the skeletons of skuas, penguins, and albatrosses. Carolina has further collaborated with Luciano Prates in the study of the avifauna present in archaeological sites of northern Patagonia.

Together with MARCOS GENIZO and LUCAS POMI, FEDERICO AGNOLIN is reviewing one of the richest fossil avifaunas known from the Pleistocene. It is represented by more than 70 specimens of nearly 30 avian taxa, including at least two new genera and species. In addition, and together with Fernando Novas, he is reviewing the current status of Unenlagiinae theropods and their position within Paraves, specially their relationships with basal birds, such as *Archaeopteryx*.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2009): Estatus taxonómico de *Neculus rothi* (Aves; Sphenisciformes) del Mioceno temprano de Patagonia, Argentina. – *Ameghiniana*, 46 (1): 199-201.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2009): Variation of the cranial morphometry in the magellanic penguin *Spheniscus magellanicus*. – *Ornitología Neotropical*, 20: 19-26.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2009): El valor del coracoides en los estudios anatómicos de los pingüinos (Aves, Spheniscidae) del Eoceno de Antártida. – XXII Jornadas Argentinas de Paleontología Vertebrados. San Rafael, Mendoza.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (in press): Taxonomic status of *Apterodytes ictus* Ameghino, 1901 (Aves; Sphenisciformes) del Mioceno temprano de Patagonia, Argentina. – *Neues Jahrbuch für Geologie und Paläontologie*.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., MONTALTI, D. & MARTI, L. (2009): Skeletal morphoanatomy of the Brown Skua *Stercorarius antarcticus lonnbergi* and the South Polar Skua *S. maccormicki*. – *Polar Biology*, 32.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & REGUERO, M. (2009): Sobre un esqueleto articulado parcialmente completo de *Palaeudyptes gunnari* del Eoceno Tardío de Isla

Seymour, Antártida. – XXII Jornadas Argentinas de Paleontología Vertebrados. San Rafael, Mendoza.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & REGUERO, M. (2009): Nuevos descubrimientos acerca de la esfeniscofauna de la Biozona de Anthropornis nordenskiöldi. – V Simposio Latinoamericano sobre Investigaciones Antárticas y II Simposio Ecuatoriano de Ciencia Polar. La Libertad (Ecuador), 2 al 4 de septiembre de 2009.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & TAMBUSSI, C. (2008): South American fossil penguins: a systematic update. – *Oryctos*, 7: 109-127.

AGNOLIN, F.L. (2008): Reconsideración sobre la posición sistemática de *Loncornis erectus* Ameghino, 1899 (Mammalia; non Aves). – *Studia Geologica Salmanticensia*, 44: 9-12.

AGNOLIN, F.L. & MARTINELLI, A.G. (2009): Fossil birds from the Late Cretaceous Los Alamitos Formation, Río Negro province, Patagonia. – *Journal of South American Earth Sciences*, 27: 42-49.

AGNOLIN, F.L. (2009): Sobre el complejo *Aratinga mitrata* (Psittaciformes: Psittacidae) en el Noroeste argentino. *Comentarios sistemáticos*. – *Nótulas Faunísticas*, 31: 1-5.

AGNOLIN, F.L. (in press): Monografía técnica: Sistemática y filogenia de las aves fororracoideas.

CANALE, J.I., SCANFERLA, C.A., AGNOLIN, F.L. & NOVAS, F.E. (2008): New carnivorous dinosaur from the Late Cretaceous of NW Patagonia and the evolution of abelisaurid theropods. – *Naturwissenschaften*, 96: 409-414.

CRUZ, I. (2005): La representación de partes esqueléticas de aves. Patrones naturales e interpretación arqueológica. – *Archaeofauna, International Journal of Archaeozoology*, 14: 69-81.

CRUZ, I. (2005): La densidad mineral ósea: Importancia metodológica. – *Investigación y Ciencia*, 351: 35-37 (España).

CRUZ, I. (2005): Las aves actuales y el registro arqueológico en la costa sur de Patagonia Continental. – In: MARTINELLI, J., DOMÉNECH, R. & DE GIBERT, J.M. (eds): Libro de Resúmenes del 2nd International Meeting TAPHOS, 4ª Reunión de Tafonomía y Fosilización Universidad de Barcelona, España, pp. 35-36.

CRUZ, I. (2006): Los huesos de pingüinos (Spheniscidae) de los sitios de Cabo Blanco (Santa Cruz, Patagonia Argentina). Análisis tafonómico y perspectivas arqueológicas. – *Intersecciones en Antropología*, 7: 15-26.

CRUZ, I. (2006): Tafonomía de huesos de aves en el sur de Patagonia continental: un enfoque comparativo. Abstracts, ICAZ (International Council of Archaeozoology) International Meeting 2006 - Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Escuela Nacional de Conservación, Restauración y Museografía, Ciudad de México (México), pp. 52-53.

CRUZ, I. (2006): Ñandúes y pingüinos: estudios tafonómicos de huesos de aves en Patagonia. – Libro de Resúmenes del Primer Taller de Zooarqueología de Chile, Santiago de Chile, pp. 7-9.

CRUZ, I. (2007): Avian Taphonomy: observations at two Magellanic penguin (*Spheniscus magellanicus*)

- breeding colonies and their implications for the fossil record. — *Journal of Archaeological Science*, 34: 1252-1261.
- CRUZ, I. (2007): La explotación de las aves en la zona cordillerana del sur de Patagonia (Santa Cruz, Argentina). — *Werken (Chile)*, 11: 107-126.
- CRUZ, I. (2007): La representación de partes esqueléticas de aves. Observaciones tafonómicas actuales y registro arqueológico en el sur de Patagonia continental. Resúmenes de las XXIII Jornadas Argentinas de Paleontología de Vertebrados. — *Ameghiniana*, 4 (4) Suplemento: 12-13.
- CRUZ, I. (2007): Chapter 11. The recent bones of the Río Gallegos Basin (Santa Cruz, Argentina) and their preservation potential. — In: GUTIERREZ, M.A., MIOTTI, L., BARRIENTOS, G., MENGONI GOÑALONS, G. & SALEMME, M. (eds.): *Taphonomy and Archaeozoology in Argentina*, pp. 161-170. — BAR (British Archaeological Reports) International Series S1601, Oxford.
- CRUZ, I. (2008): Avian and mammalian bone taphonomy in Southern Continental Patagonia. A comparative approach. — *Quaternary International*, 180: 30-37.
- CRUZ, I. (2008): Bone accumulators. — *Journal of Taphonomy*, 17: 69-70.
- CRUZ, I. (2009): Tafonomía en escalas espaciales amplias: el registro óseo de las aves en el sur de Patagonia. — In: ACOSTA, A., LOPONTE, D. & MUCCIOLO, L. (eds.): *Temas de Arqueología 2: Estudios tafonómicos y zooarqueológicos*, pp. 15-34.
- CRUZ, I. (2009): Tafonomía de huesos de cormoranes en la costa patagónica. Primeros resultados. *Arqueología de la Patagonia. Una mirada desde el último confin.* CADIC/CONICET, Instituto Nacional de Antropología y Pensamiento Latinoamericano y Sociedad Argentina de Antropología, Ushuaia (in press).
- CRUZ, I., ASTETE, F., NAUTO, G. & BORRERO, L.A. (2009): La colonia de nidificación de pingüinos de Magallanes de Cabo Vírgenes a través del tiempo. — In: BORRERO, L.A. & CHARLIN, J. (eds.): *Arqueología de Cabo Vírgenes*. Buenos Aires (in press).
- CRUZ, I., FERRARI, S. & ALBRIEU, C. (2006): GAVIOTAS y procesos tafonómicos en la costa patagónica. Problemáticas de la Arqueología Contemporánea, Tomo I: 259-266. — Universidad Nacional de Río Cuarto, Córdoba.
- CRUZ, I., MUÑOZ, A.S. & ZANGRANDO, A.F.J. (2007): La interpretación de los restos de animales pequeños en la arqueología patagónica: Estado de la cuestión y perspectivas. — In: *Arqueología de Fuego-Patagonia. Levantando piedras, desenterrando huesos y develando arcanos*, pp. 15-22. — Instituto de la Patagonia, Universidad de Magallanes (Punta Arenas, Chile).
- MONTALTI, D., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & DEL VALLE, R. (in press): New Holocene penguin assemblages at South Shetland Islands, Antarctica. — *Neues Jahrbuch für Geologie und Paläontologie*.
- NORIEGA, J.I. & AGNOLIN, F.L. (2008): El registro paleontológico de las Aves del "Mesopotamiense" (Formación Ituzaingó; Mioceno tardío-Plioceno) de la provincia de Entre Ríos, Argentina. — In: ACEÑOLAZA, F.G. (ed.): *Temas de la Biodiversidad del Litoral fluvial argentino III*. — *INSUGEO, Miscelánea*, 17 (2): 271-290.
- NORIEGA, J.I., ARETA, J.I., VIZCAÍNO, S.F. & BARGO, M.S. (2008): Reassessment of *Thegornis musculosus* Ameghino 1894 (Aves: Falconidae) based on new material recovered from Santacrucian (Early-Middle Miocene) beds of Patagonia. — *Ameghiniana*, 45 (4): 30R.
- NORIEGA, J.I. & CLADERA, G. (2008): First record of an extinct marabou stork in the Neogene of South America. — *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica*, 53 (4): 593-600.
- NORIEGA, J.I., TAMBUSI, C.P. & COZZUOL, M. (2008): New material and the phylogenetic position of *Cayoa bruneti* Tonni, an early Miocene anseriform (Aves) from Patagonia, Argentina. — *Neues Jahrbuch für Geologie und Paläontologie, Abhandlungen*, 249/3: 271-280.
- NORIEGA, J.I., VIZCAÍNO, S.F. & BARGO, M.S. (2009): First record and a new species of seriema (Aves: Ralliformes: Cariamidae) from Santacrucian (early-middle Miocene) beds of Patagonia. — *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 29 (2): 620-626.
- TAMBUSI, C.P. & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2008): Skull shape analysis and diet of South American fossil penguins (Sphenisciformes). — *Oryctos*, 7: 137-145.
- TAMBUSI, C., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., RINDERKNECHT, A. & UBILLA, M. (2009): Taxonomic notes and fossil records of two species of *Cyanoliseus* Bonaparte, 1854 (Aves, Psittaciformes) in Uruguay. — *Ameghiniana*, 46: 431-435.

AUSTRALIA

WALTER BOLES (Australian Museum) has done little hands on work with fossil birds recently, but is happy to have Jackie Nguyen and Trevor Worthy as regular visitors using the collection. Walter is working on the proceedings of the Sydney SAPE meeting, co-edited by Trevor, and is pleased that these are progressing well, with a publication target of first part of 2010. Walter is starting to work on large birds of prey in the Australian fossil record.

TREVOR WORTHY moved from Adelaide to the University of New South Wales in Sydney at the beginning of 2009. There he expects to continue work on the Australian Tertiary avifauna and also the Miocene St Bathans Fauna of New Zealand. They had their 3rd joint Australian – NZ expedition to St Bathans Otago NZ, in February 2009 and as per usual were richly rewarded. New taxa continue to be revealed. In addition to the bird themes below they have described sphenodontid and

lizard remains from the fauna during this last year. In July 2009, he went on the annual Riversleigh, NW Queensland, fieldtrip, and this year they found nice material of dromornithids among the many mammals. In his spare time, Trevor is also examining rich faunas from Vanuatu and Tubuai from archaeological excavations. The fossil bird scene was busy in Australia over the last year. The SAPE meeting in Sydney was most excellently run by Walter Boles ably assisted by Jaynia Sladek. Trevor is sure all attendees enjoyed their visit to Sydney – he knows he enjoyed catching up with all that did.

BOESSENKOOL, S., AUSTIN, J.J., WORTHY, T.H., SCOFIELD, P., COOPER, A., SEDDON, P.J. & WATERS, J.M. (2009): Relict or colonizer? Extinction and range expansion of penguins in southern New Zealand. — *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 276: 815-821. doi:10.1098/rsbp.2008.1246.

- KING, C.M., ROBERTS, C.D., BELL, B.D., FORDYCE, R.E., NICOLL, R.S., WORTHY, T.H., PAULIN, C.D., HITCHMOUGH, R.A., KEYES, I.W., BAKER, A.N., STEWART, A.L., HILLER, N., MCDOWALL, B.M., HOLDAWAY, R.N., MCPHEE, R.P., SCHWARZHANS, W.W., TENNYSON A.J.D., RUST, S. & MCCADIE, I. (2009): Phylum Chordata: Lancelets, Fishes, Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds, and Mammals. — The New Zealand Inventory of Biodiversity: A Species 2000 Symposium Review. — Canterbury University Press.
- WORTHY, T.H. (2009): Fossil Birds. — In: Encyclopedia of Islands; pp 318-326. — University of California Press.
- WORTHY, T.H. (2009): Descriptions and phylogenetic relationships of two new genera and four new species of Oligo-Miocene waterfowl (Aves: Anatidae) from Australia. — Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society, 156: 411-454.
- WORTHY, T.H., HAND, S.J., WORTHY, J.P., TENNYSON, A.J.D. & SCOFIELD R.P. (2009): A large fruit pigeon (Columbidae) from the Early Miocene of New Zealand. — The Auk, 126(3): 649-656.
- WORTHY, T.H. & SCANLON, J. (2009): An Oligo-Miocene Magpie Goose Aves: Anseranatidae from Riversleigh, north western Queensland, Australia. — Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology, 29: 205-211.
- WORTHY, T.H., OLSON, S.L., & SMITH T. (2008): A reassessment of the fossil goose *Anser scaldii* Lambrecht, 1933 (Aves: Anatidae). — Bulletin of the British Ornithologist's Club, 128(4): 228-232.

AUSTRIA

- URSULA GÖHLICH (Natural History Museum of Vienna) continues her research on Neogene vertebrates, but currently only secondarily on fossil birds. Additionally she is still a lecturer (palaeontology) at the University of Munich (Dept. for Geological and Environmental Sciences). Together with G. Rössner (Munich), Ursula co-guest-edited the special volumes on the Miocene vertebrate locality Sandelzhausen (Germany). Part 1 of this volume was published in 2009 in the "Paläontologische Zeitschrift (83/1)", part 2, will appear beginning of 2010 again in the "Paläontologische Zeitschrift (84/1)" (for content see: <http://www.springerlink.com/content/p620871583m7/?p=c83af495d1d144f4a3a62c83ba6e3421&pi=0>). Ursula and Gudrun Daxner-Höck (Vienna) coordinated another "special volume" on the Late Miocene Austrian vertebrate locality Atzelsdorf, which was published recently in the "Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museums Wien" (for content see: http://www.nhm-wien.ac.at/Content.Node/forschung/geologie/annalen_a/volume111.html).
- DAXNER-HÖCK, G. & GÖHLICH, U.B. (2009): The early Vallesian vertebrates of Atzelsdorf (Austria, Late Miocene). 1. Introduction. — Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museum Wien, 111A: 475-478.
- DELFINO, M. & GÖHLICH, U.B. (2009): The early Vallesian vertebrates of Atzelsdorf (Austria, Late Miocene). 4. Chelonia. — Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museum Wien, 111A: 499-508.
- GÖHLICH, U.B. (2009): The early Vallesian vertebrates of Atzelsdorf (Austria, Late Miocene). 5. Aves. — Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museum Wien, 111A: 509-514.
- GÖHLICH, U.B. & HUTTUNEN, K. (2009): The early Vallesian vertebrates of Atzelsdorf (Austria, Late Miocene). 12. Proboscidea. — Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museum Wien, 111A: 635-646.
- Göhlich, U. (2009): I'll be back – Das Mammut kehrt zurück. — Universum, 3, NHMW 3
- GÖHLICH, U.B., RÖSSNER, G.E. & NOSE, M. (2009): Volker Fahlbusch 1934-2008. — GMit, 35: 64-65.
- HILLENBRAND, V., GÖHLICH, U.B. & RÖSSNER, G.E. (2009): The early Vallesian vertebrates of Atzelsdorf (Austria, Late Miocene). 7. Ruminantia. — Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museum Wien, 111A: 519-556.
- MOSER, M., RÖSSNER, G.E., GÖHLICH, U.B., BÖHME, M. & FAHLBUSCH, V. (2009): The fossilagerstätte Sandelzhausen (Miocene; southern Germany): history of investigation, geology, fauna and age – Paläontologische Zeitschrift, 83 (1): 7-23.
- RÖSSNER, G.E. & GÖHLICH, U.B. (guest-eds.) (2009). Fossil lagerstätte Sandelzhausen (Miocene southern Germany) – Contributions to the fauna. — Paläontologische Zeitschrift, 83 (1): 1-226.
- RÖSSNER, G.E. & GÖHLICH, U.B. (2009). Preface. — In: RÖSSNER, G.E. & GÖHLICH, U.B. (eds.): Fossil lagerstätte Sandelzhausen (Miocene southern Germany) – Contributions to the fauna. — Paläontologische Zeitschrift, 83 (1): 1-3.
- RÖSSNER, G.E., GÖHLICH, U.B., MOSER, M. & ZIEGLER, R. (2009): In memoriam †Prof. Dr. Volker Fahlbusch (1934-2008). — Zitteliana A, 48/49:

BULGARIA

- BOEV, Z. (2008): Brief review of the history of the nature protection in Bulgaria. — Ecological Engineering and environmental protection, 7 (2-3): 140-149.
- BOEV, Z. (2008): House martin *Delichon urbica*. — Acrocephalus, 29 (136): 74-75.
- BOEV, Z. (2008): New records of the Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus* (Linnaeus, 1758), a poorly known sea bird in the Black Sea. — National Oceanographic Commission, Varna, Bulletin, 5: 20-22.
- BOEV, Z. (2009): Earliest remains of Old World vultures discovered in Bulgaria. — News, BAS, 2 (66), Year VII, February 2009, 1-3.
- BOEV, Z. (2009): Avian remains from the Late Chalcolithic settlement near Hotnitsa Village (Veliko Tarnovo Region, CN Bulgaria). — Acta zoologica bulgarica, 61(1): 49-54.
- BOEV, Z. (2009): A case of "unusual" late breeding of the House Martin (*Delichon urbica* Linnaeus, 1758) (Hirundinidae – Aves) in Bulgaria. — In: VELCHEVA, I.G. & TSEKOV, A.G. (eds.): Proceeding of the Anniversary Scientific Conference of Ecology, Plovdiv, November 1st 2008: 191-193.
- BOEV, Z. (2009): First finds of giant land tortoises discovered in Bulgaria. — In: POPOV, A. & SLAVOVA, S. (eds.): Новости - News 2008, BAS, 106-108.
- BOEV, Z. (2009): Review of: Erika Gal. Fowling in Lowlands. Neolithic and Chalcolithic bird exploitation in south-east Romania and the Great Hungarian Plain. (Archaeolingua. Series Minor, 24). Budapest

2007. 149 pp. ISBN 978-963-8046-85-7. – Arheologiya, BAS, 1-2: 132.

BOEV, Z. (2009): Avian remains from the Early Neolithic settlement of Slatina (present Sofia City, Bulgaria). – Acta zoologica bulgarica, 61 (2): 151-156.

BOEV, Z. (2009): Avian remains from the Early Chalcolithic settlement in Burgas (SE Bulgaria). – Acta zoologica bulgarica, 61 (2): 157-160.

BULGARIAN NATIONAL RARITIES COMMITTEE (2009): List of the Birds Recorded in Bulgaria. – Acta zoologica bulgarica, 61(1): 3-26.

DENMARK

BENT LINDOW has continued his postdoctoral study of bird fossils from the early-middle Eocene Lillebælt Clay Formation of Denmark at the Natural History Museum of Denmark. This fauna is currently composed of two odontopterygid specimens, a lithornithid, one or two trogon specimens and an enigmatic new taxon possessing a massive, parrot-like beak. At the end of April and beginning of May 2009 and he visited the Geiseltal Museum in Halle and Gerald Mayr at Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg. The latter was a much enjoyable and scientifically very rewarding visit. Additionally, Bent is publishing the results of his Ph.D.-project on the fossil bird material from the early Eocene Fur Formation at a cripplingly slow pace. Hopefully a description of a small charadriiform-like bird written together with Sara Bertelli, Luis Chiappe and Gareth Dyke will be forthcoming at the end of the year. A large manuscript reviewing the timing and pattern of the early neornithine evolution and diversification at the time of

the K/T mass extinction has been submitted for a new book edited by Gary Kaiser and Gareth Dyke.

BERTELLI, S., LINDOW, B.E.K., DYKE, G.J. & CHIAPPE, L.M. (in press): A well-preserved 'charadriiform-like' fossil bird from the Early Eocene Fur Formation of Denmark. – Palaeontology.

DYKE, G.J. & LINDOW, B.E.K. (2009): Taphonomy and abundance of birds from the Lower Eocene Fur Formation of Denmark. – Geological Journal, 44: 365-373.

LINDOW, B.E.K. (2008): A new avian fauna from the early-middle Eocene Lillebælt Clay Formation of DENMARK. – IN: DYKE, G., Naish, D. & Parkes, M. (eds.): SVP-CA 2008. Programme & Abstracts, pp. 36-37. University College Dublin & National Museum of Ireland, Dublin.

GREAT BRITAIN

JULIAN PENDER HUME has continued work on the Mascarene Islands including a monograph on the Mascarene Columbiformes, which will be in review soon. Work has also begun on the Mascarene Passeriformes. This is a difficult group to work on, particularly when only post-cranials are preserved, but early indications look very promising. New caves continue to be discovered, notably a limestone cave on Mauritius and a number of pristine limestone caves on Rodrigues. The latter excavations in November 08 produced large numbers of Procellariiformes remains representing at least 3 species, 2 of which are possibly undescribed. The Mare aux Songes marsh was reworked by JPH and Dutch colleagues in July 09, in which an attempt was made at draining a pit to study fossil material *in-situ*. The technique proved successful in a logistically difficult locality and the first bird and reptile material was retrieved in true context from this site. JPH also undertook the first palaeontological survey of the Comoros Islands in April/May 2009, which proved disappointing in terms of fossil material. Unlike the Mascarenes, the Comoros have no limestone caves and the lava tubes are either wet, too steep, lack sediment or

are occupied by large numbers of bats and their guano. Marshes are rare, and the one site on Grand Comore where a lowland marsh is known to exist, proved logistically too difficult to reach.

CHEKE, A.S. & HUME, J.P. (2008): Lost Land of the Dodo. – 464 pp., 16 pages in colour. London: A & C Black.

HUME, J.P., CHEKE, A.S. & MCOORAN-CAMPBELL, A. (2009): How Owen 'stole' the Dodo: academic rivalry deposit in nineteenth century Mauritius. – Historical Biology, 21(1-2): 1-18.

RIJSDIJK, K.F., HUME, J.P., BUNNIK, F. DE., FLORENS, V., BAIDER, SHAPIRO, B., PLICHT, J. V.D., JANOO, A., GRIFFITHS, O., HOEK OSTENDE, L.W. V.D., CREMER, H., VERNIMMEN, T., DE LOUW, P., BHOLAH M ASSENJEE, B., SAUMTALLY S., PORCH, N., HAILE, J., BUCKLEY, M., COLLINS, M. & GITTENBERGER, E. (2009): Mid-Holocene vertebrate bone Concentration-Lagerstätte on oceanic island Mauritius provides a window into the ecosystem of the dodo (*Raphus cucullatus*). – Quaternary Sciences Reviews, 28: 14–24.

FRANCE

ANTOINE LOUCHART is still working on fossil birds from African sites, in particular on some families from Langebaanweg (early Pliocene, South Africa). He is still interested in insular evolution, the evolution of bird migrations, and fossils from the Oligocene of southeastern France, and he is now starting a project on the teeth of birds, at the Functional Genomics Institute of Lyon (ENS Lyon).

CÉCILE MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ has carried out the systematic study of the whole avifauna from the Late Pliocene locality of Ahl al Oughlam, Morocco. This work has been submitted to the Proceedings of the 7th

International Congress of the SAPE, in Sydney. The Struthionidae and Pelagornithidae have been published in the Proceedings of the 6th International Congress, in Quillan. This avifauna includes, in addition to Struthionidae and Pelagornithidae, representatives of Diomedidae, Procellariidae, Sulidae, Threskiornithidae, Anatidae, Phasianidae, Rallidae, Otidae, Charadriidae, Stercorariidae, Alcidae, Columbidae, Psittacidae, Tytonidae, and Strigidae. The Strigidae remains belong to the extinct species *SURNIA ROBUSTA*, which was previously only known from Central Europe. Cécile is presently finishing the study of the avifauna from the

Early Pleistocene locality of Senèze, for the monograph which is planned for this locality.

The monograph concerning the Early Miocene localities of the Northern Sperrgebiet, in Namibia, is issued and fossil birds have been found in four of them, Elisabethfeld, Fiskus, Grillental and Langental. In Elisabethfeld the small ostrich, *Struthio coppensi*, is associated with aepyornithoid type eggshells. In Grillental a *Megapaloelodus* has been found. This confirms that the family Palaelodidae had a worldwide distribution, from the Lowermost Oligocene of Europe to the Middle Pleistocene of Australia. A Coliidae has also been found in Grillental, and it is so far the earliest mousebird found in Africa. Although the sediments have been carefully washed and sorted, no passeriform remains have been recovered.

Cécile has worked in collaboration with Ursula Göhlich on a cormorant from the Early Miocene of Rauscheröd, with Marco Pavia on the description of the type-material of *Tyto sanctialbani*, and with Martine Faure and Claude Guérin on a distal tarsometatarsus of *Rhea fossilis* from the Late Pleistocene or Early Holocene of the Toca das Moendas, National Park of Serra da Capivara, Piauí, Brasil. She has worked also in collaboration with Géraldine Garcia and Rodolphe Tabuce on a carpometacarpus from the Early Eocene of Algeria, which has been referred to the family Presbyornithidae.

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DUHIG, C., JONES, G., MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C., NICODEMUS A., REESE, D.S. & ROSE, M.J. (2008): Chapter 12. The organic remains. – In: TAYLOUR, W.D. & JANKO, R. (eds., with the assistance of Fortenberry, D., Goalen M.J., & Wallace T.): *Ayios Stephanos. Excavations at a Bronze Age and Medieval Settlement in Southern Laconia*. – The British School at Athens. Supplementary Volume No. 44: 485-525.

FAURE, M., GUÉRIN, C. & MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. (2009): L'art rupestre du Parc national Serra da Capivara: bestiaire figuré et données paléontologiques. *Congresso Internacional de Arte Rupestre*. International Federation of Rock Art Organizations. –

Parque Nacional Serra da Capivara, Piauí, Brasil, 29 juin - 3 juillet 2009. Résumé.

GARCIA, G., ADACI, M., BENSALAH, M., MEBROUK, F., JAEGER, J.-J., MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C., SUDRE, J., VALENTIN, X., MAHBOUBI, M. & TABUCE, R. (2009): The discovery of avian egg and bone remains from the Gour Lazib (Eocene, Algeria). – Premier Congrès International sur la Paléontologie des Vertébrés du Nord de l'Afrique, 25-27 mai 2009, Marrakech. Abstract and Poster.

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LOUCHART, A. (in press): Aves. – In: HARRISON, T.H. (ed.): *Laetoli Revisited, Volume 2, Fossil Hominins and the Associated Fauna*. – *Vertebrate Paleobiology and Paleoanthropology Book Series*, Springer.

MAYR, G. & MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. (2008): The peculiar scapula of the Late Eocene *Elaphrocnemus phasianus* Milne-Edwards, 1892 (Aves, Cariamae). – *Senckenbergiana lethaea*, 88(2): 195-198.

MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. (2008): Birds (Aves) from the Early Miocene of the Northern Sperrgebiet, Namibia. – In: SENUT, B. & PICKFORD, M. (eds.): *Geology and Palaeobiology of the Namib Desert, Southwestern Africa*. Vol. 3. *Palaeobiology of the Northern Sperrgebiet*. – Ministry of Mines and Energy. *Memoirs of the Geological Survey of Namibia*, 20: 147-167.

MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. & GERAADS, D. (2008): The Struthionidae and Pelagornithidae (Aves: Struthioniformes, Odontopterygiformes) from the Late Pliocene of Ahl al Oughlam, Morocco. – *Oryctos*, 7: 169-194.

GERMANY

GERALD MAYR has spent much time in the completion of a book on the Paleogene fossil record of birds. Information on its contents can be found at:

<http://www.springer.com/life+sci/book/978-3-540-89627-2>



BRAUSE, C., GASSE, H. & MAYR, G. (2009): New observations on the splenius capitis and rectus

capitis ventralis muscles of the Common Swift *Apus apus* (Apodidae). – *Ibis*, 151; DOI: 10.1111/j.1474.

MAYR, G. (2008): The higher-level phylogeny of birds - when morphology, molecules, and fossils coincide. – *Oryctos*, 7: 67-74.

MAYR, G. (2008): *Pumiliornis tessellatus* Mayr, 1999 revisited – new data on the osteology and possible phylogenetic affinities of an enigmatic Middle Eocene bird. – *Paläontologische Zeitschrift*, 82 (3): 247-253.

MAYR, G. (2008): The Madagascan “cuckoo-roller” (Aves: Leptosomidae) is not a roller – notes on the phylogenetic affinities and evolutionary history of a “living fossil”. – *Acta Ornithologica*, 43 (2): 226-230.

MAYR, G. (2009): *Paleogene fossil birds*. Springer, Heidelberg, 262 pp.

MAYR, G. (2009): A dwarf species of the Phalacrocoracoidea (cormorants and anhingas) from the early Miocene of Germany. – *Ibis*, 151: 392-395.

- MAYR, G. (2009): A small loon and a new species of large owl from the Rupelian of Belgium (Aves: Gaviiformes, Strigiformes). — *Paläontologische Zeitschrift*, 83: 247-254.
- MAYR, G. (2009): A well-preserved second trogon skeleton (Aves, Trogonidae) from the middle Eocene of Messel, Germany. — *Palaeobiodiversity and Palaeoenvironments*; DOI 10.1007/s12549-009-0001-9.
- MAYR, G. (2009): Notes on the osteology and phylogenetic affinities of the Oligocene Diomedoididae (Aves, Procellariiformes). — *Fossil record*, 12 (2): 133-140.
- MAYR, G., HAZEVOET, C. J., DANTAS, P. & CACHÃO, M. (2008): A sternum of a very large bony-toothed bird (Pelagornithidae) from the Miocene of Portugal. — *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 28: 762-769.
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- MAYR, G. & POSCHMANN, M. (2009): A loon leg (Aves, Gaviidae) with crocodilian tooth from the late Oligocene of Germany. — *Waterbirds*, 32 (3): 468-471.
- MAYR, G. & ZELENKOV, N. (2009): New specimens of zygodactylid birds from the middle Eocene of Messel, with description of a new species of *Primozygodactylus*. — *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica*, 54 (1): 15-20.
- VINTHER, J., BRIGGS, D.E.G., CLARKE, J., MAYR, G. & PRUM, R.O. (2009): Structural coloration in a fossil feather. — *Biology Letters*. DOI: 10.1098/rsbl.2009.0524.

HUNGARY

EUGEN KESSLER continued his study regarding the Palaeogene and Neogene avifauna of the Carpathian Basin. He identified recently found remains and described new fossil taxa. He also elaborated a new hypothesis concerning the origin and evolution of birds, and teaches at the Department of Palaeontology of Eötvös Lóránt University, Budapest.

- KESSLER, J. (2008). A Kárpát-medence madárvilágának kialakulása az évszázados magyar madáröslénytani kutatások eredményeinek tükrében [The evolution of avifauna from the Carpathian Basin as reflected by the results of palaeornithological research during the last 150 years] — *Magyar Tudomány* [Hungarian Science], 2008/10: 1220-1227.
- KESSLER, J. (2009): Új eredmények a Kárpát-medence neogén és negyedidőszaki madárvilágához. I. rész.

(New results with regard to the Neogene and Quaternary Avifauna of the Carpathian Basin. Part I.) — *Földtani Közöny* (Bulletin of the Hungarian Geological Society), 139/1: 67-82.

- KESSLER, J. (2009): Új eredmények a Kárpát-medence neogén és negyedidőszaki madárvilágához. II. rész. (New results with regard to the Neogene and Quaternary Avifauna of the Carpathian Basin. Part II.) — *Földtani Közöny* (Bulletin of the Hungarian Geological Society), 139/3: 445-468.
- KESSLER, J. (2009): Madárevolúció: fajképződés, fajöltő, kihalás vagy változás [Bird evolution: species development, longevity of Avian species, extinction or change?] — *Magyar Tudomány* (Hungarian Science) 2009/5: 586-596.

POLAND

PIOTR JADWISZCZAK continues work on fossil penguins (and other vertebrates) from the Eocene La Meseta Formation (Seymour Island, Antarctic Peninsula). Much of his time has been recently occupied with enhancing the catalogue of the Polish collection of Eocene penguins housed at the University of Białystok.

- JADWISZCZAK, P. (2009): Penguin past: The current state of knowledge. — *Polish Polar Research*, 30 (1): 3-28.
- JADWISZCZAK, P. (2008): An intriguing penguin bone from the Late Eocene of Seymour Island (Antarctic Peninsula). — *Antarctic Science*, 20 (6): 589-590.
- JADWISZCZAK, P., GADŻICKI, A. & TATUR, A. (2008): An ibis-like bird from the Upper La Meseta Formation (Late Eocene) of Seymour Island, Antarctica. — *Antarctic Science*, 20 (4): 413-414.

SWEDEN

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

- ERICSON, P.G.P., OLSON, S.L., IRESTEDT, M., ALVARENGA, H. & FJELDSA, J. (in press): Circumscription of a monophyletic family for the tapaculos (Aves: Rhinocryptidae): *Psiloramphus* in and *Melanopareia* out. — *Journal of Ornithology*.
- GELANG, M., CIBOIS, A., PASQUET, E., OLSSON, U., ALSTRÖM, P. & ERICSON, P.G.P. (2009): Phylogeny of babblers (Aves, Passeriformes): major lineages, family limits and classification. — *Zoologica Scripta*, 38: 225-236.

- IRESTEDT, M., JØNSSON, K.A., FJELDSA, J., CHRISTIDIS, L. & ERICSON, P.G.P. (in press): An unexpectedly long history of sexual selection in birds-of-paradise. — *BMC Evolutionary Biology*.
- JØNSSON, K.A., IRESTEDT, M., ERICSON, P.G.P. & FJELDSA, J. (in press): A molecular phylogeny of minivets (Passeriformes: Campephagidae: *Pericrocotus*): implications for biogeography and convergent plumage evolution. — *Zoologica Scripta*.
- NORMAN, J.A., ERICSON, P.G.P., JØNSSON, K.A., FJELDSA, J. & CHRISTIDIS, L. (2009): A multigene phylogeny reveals novel relationships for aberrant genera of Australo-Papuan core Corvoidea and polyphyly of the *Pachycephalidae* and *Psophodidae* (Aves: Passeriformes). — *Molecular Evolution and Phylogenetics*, 52: 488-497.

NEW ZEALAND

In Auckland, BRIAN GILL (Auckland War Memorial Museum) has been preparing a report on a mid-Pliocene shearwater skull from the center of the North Island. Various scanning techniques are being tried to obtain more details of features obscured by sediment. He has teamed up with Leon Huynen of Massey University to recover DNA fragments from pieces of moa eggshell, and also from moa chick bones, to permit identification to species of otherwise unidentifiable specimens.

PAUL SCOFIELD (Canterbury Museum, Christchurch) continues to divide his time between fossil and living birds. As well as his work on at St Bathans, Paul has begun collaboration with Ken Ashwell from the Anatomy Dept of the University of New South Wales on palaeoneurology of moa and now Haast's Eagle. After a hiatus of nearly 40 years excavations began again in January at the Wairau Bar archaeological site which is widely touted as the oldest human site in New Zealand. Paul is working with archaeologists at the site to identify the avian remains. He is also periodically called out to new Holocene fossil sites throughout the South Island and has recently been working Haiti, Dominican Republic and visited Riversleigh with the UNSW team.

ALAN TENNYSON (Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington) continues to work on a mixture of research based on both fossil and living vertebrates. His primary fossil research is still focused on the Miocene St Bathans site in southern New Zealand, and writing up results of this work continues, mainly with Trevor Worthy and Sue Hand (Sydney) and Paul

Scofield (Christchurch, NZ). Another successful field trip was undertaken to St Bathans in February 2009.

COOPER, J.H. & TENNYSON, A.J.D. (2008): Wrecks and residents: the fossil gadfly petrels (*Pterodroma* spp.) of the Chatham Islands, New Zealand. – *Oryctos*, 7: 227-248.

LAWRENCE, H., MILLAR, C., IMBER, M., CROCKETT, D., ROBINS, J., SCOFIELD, R.P., TAYLOR, G.A. & LAMBERT, D.M. (2009): Molecular evidence for the identity of the Magenta petrel. – *Molecular Ecology Resources*, 9: 458-461.

SCOFIELD, R.P. & ASHWELL, K. (2009): Rapid Somatic Expansion causes the Brain to Lag Behind: The case of the Brain and Behaviour of New Zealand's Haast's Eagle (*Harpagornis moorei*). – *Journal of Vertebrate Palaeontology*, 29(3): 1-14.

TENNYSON, A.J.D. (2009): Appendix E - Archaeological and fossil bird bones found at the subantarctic Auckland Islands. – In: DINGWALL, P.R., JONES, K.L. & EGERTON, R. (eds.): *In Care of The Southern Ocean - An archaeological and historical survey of the Auckland Islands*, pp. 297-307. – New Zealand Archaeological Association Monograph No.27.

WORTHY, T.H., HOLDAWAY, R.N. & TENNYSON, A.J.D. (2009): Fossil birds: Tertiary to mid-Pleistocene/Living and recently extinct birds.– In: GORDON, D.P. (ed.): *New Zealand Inventory of Biodiversity. Volume 1. Kingdom Animalia*, pp. 544-549. – Canterbury University Press, Christchurch.

RUSSIA

NIKITA ZELENKOV is trying to finish his study of Neogene birds of Central Asia (Mongolia, Eastern Kazakhstan, and Buryatia). Together with E. Kurochkin he published few papers on phasianids, while papers on other groups of birds are being prepared. He is also involved in few descriptions of Paleogene and Cretaceous birds. E. Kurochkin and N. Zelenkov also prepared an article about new species of anseriforms from the Latest Pleistocene of Yakutia, which were announced few years before.

DMITRIEVA, E.L., SERDJUK, N.V., LAVROV, A.B., SYCHEVSKAYA, E.K. & ZELENKOV, N.V. (2008): Paleozoological characteristics of the archeological site "Borovsky Kurgan". – *Archeologia Podmoskovia*, 4: 389-391.

MAYR, G. & ZELENKOV, N.V. (2009): A new species of *Primozygodactylus* Mayr, 1998 (Aves, Zygodactylidae) from the Middle Eocene of Messel, with further notes on the osteology and feathering of this taxon. – *Acta Paleontologica Polonica*, 54: 15-20.

ZELENKOV, N.V. (2008): Quaternary anseriforms of the Djuktai Cave (South-Eastern Yakutia). – *Casarca*, 11: 13-21. [In Russian with English summary].

ZELENKOV, N.V. (2008): [Review of] Gary W. Kaiser. 2007. *The inner bird: anatomy and evolution*. UBC Press. Vancouver, Toronto. 386p. – *Ornithologia*, 35: 152-153. [In Russian].

ZELENKOV, N.V. (2008): Bird remains from two archaeological sites in Belarus Republic. – *Ornithologia*, 35: 126-128. [In Russian]

ZELENKOV, N.V. (2009): Phylogenetic analysis of some neogene phasianid genera (Aves: Phasianidae) – *Paleontological Journal*, 43: 438-443.

ZELENKOV, N.V. & DYKE G.J. (2008): The fossil record and evolution of mousebirds. – *Palaeontology*, 51: 1403-1418.

ZELENKOV, N.V. & KUROCHKIN E.N. (2009): Neogene Phasianids (Aves: Phasianidae) of Central Asia: 1. Genus *Tologuica* gen. nov. – *Paleontological Journal*, 43: 208-215.

ZELENKOV, N.V. & KUROCHKIN E.N. (2009): Neogene Phasianids (Aves: Phasianidae) of Central Asia: 2. Genera *Perdix*, *Plioperdix* and *Bantamyx*. – *Paleontological Journal*, 43: 318-325.

ZELENKOV, N.V. & KUROCHKIN E.N. (in press): Neogene Phasianids (Aves: Phasianidae) of Central Asia: 3. Genera *Syrmaticus* and *Lophogallus* gen. nov. – *Paleontological Journal*, 44.

UNITED STATES

Los Angeles

In Los Angeles, KEN CAMPBELL has spent most of his time over the last year writing about the Neogene history of the Amazon Basin. As a consequence, his work on avian matters has been rather limited. He can

Washington D.C.

- FLEISCHER, R.C., JAMES, H.F. & OLSON, S.L. (2008): Convergent evolution of Hawaiian and Australo-Pacific honeyeaters from distant songbird ancestor. – *Current Biology*, 18(24): 1927-1931.
- OLSON, S.L. (2008): [Review of] *Lost Land of the Dodo*. By Anthony Cheke and Julian Hume. – *Science*, 321: 913-914.
- OLSON, S.L. (2008): Falsified data associated with specimens of birds, mammals, and insects from the Veragua Archipelago, Panama, collected by J. H. Batty. *American Museum Novitates*, 3620: 1-37.
- OLSON, S.L. (2008): A new species of shearwater of the genus *Calonectris* (Aves: Procellariidae) from a middle Pleistocene deposit on Bermuda. – *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington*, 121(3): 398-409
- OLSON, S.L. (2008): [Review of] *The Meinertzhagen Mystery: The Life and Legend of a Colossal Fraud*. By Brian Garfield. – *Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, 120 (4): 917-920.
- OLSON, S.L. (2008): A new species of very large, terrestrial caracara from Holocene deposits in southern Jamaica (Aves: Falconidae). – *Journal of Raptor Research*, 42(4): 265-272.
- OLSON, S.L. & HEARTY, P.J. (2009): A sustained +21 m sea-level highstand during MIS 11 (400 ka): Direct fossil and sedimentary evidence from Bermuda. – *Quaternary Science Reviews* 28: 271-285
- OLSON, S.L. & MAÍZ LÓPEZ, E.J. (2008): New evidence of *Ara* autochthones from an archeological site in

say that both of the projects he reported on at the SAPE meeting in Sydney, that is his work with Fritz Hertel on the automatic balance system in neornithines and the project on the La Brea owls with Zbigniew Bochenski, are soon to be completed.

- Puerto Rico: a valid species of West Indian macaw of unknown geographical origin (Aves: Psittacidae). – *Caribbean Journal of Science*, 44(2): 215-222.
- OLSON, S.L. & RICKLEFS, R.E. (2009): More on the origin of the Red-legged Thrush (*Turdus plumbeus*) of Dominica, West Indies. – *Auk*, 126(2): 449-454.
- OLSON, S.L. & SUÁREZ, W. (2008): Bare-throated Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma mexicanum*) from the Pleistocene of Cuba: a New Subfamily for the West Indies. – *Waterbirds*, 31 (2): 285-288.
- OLSON, S.L. & SUÁREZ, W. (2008): A new generic name for the Cuban Bare-legged Owl *Gymnoglaux lawrencii* Sclater and Salvin. *Zootaxa*, 1960: 67-68.
- OLSON, S.L. & SUÁREZ, W. (2008): A fossil cranium of the Cuban Macaw *Ara tricolor* (Aves: Psittacidae) from Villa Clara Province, Cuba. – *Caribbean Journal of Science*, 44(3): 287-290.
- SIEGEL, D.C. & OLSON S.L. (2008): *The Birds of the Republic of Panama*. Part 5. *Gazetteer and Bibliography*. Buteo Books, Shipman, Virginia. 516 pages.
- SUÁREZ, W. & OLSON, S.L. (2009): A new genus for the Cuban teratorn (Aves: Teratornithidae). – *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington*, 122(1):103-116.
- WORTHY, T.H., OLSON, S.L. & SMITH T. (2008): A reassessment of the fossil goose *Anser scaldii* Lambrecht, 1933 (Aves: Anatidae). – *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club*, 128(4): 228-232.