



SOCIETY OF AVIAN PALEONTOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

- Newsletter -

n° 24, October 2010

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2004 SAPE MEETING IN QUILLAN

The proceedings of 2004 SAPE meeting in Quillan are now available in printed form. A copy can be ordered via the form below.

The volume includes the following papers (listed in order of publication):

- ELZANOWSKI, A.: The avian femur: morphology and terminology of the lateral condyle, pp. 1-5.
- HINCHLIFFE, R.: Bird wing digits & their homologies: reassessment of developmental evidence for a 2,3,4 identity, pp. 7-12.
- CAMPBELL, K.E.: The manus of Archaeopterygians: implications for avian ancestry, pp. 13-26.
- BURNHAM, D.A.: A review of the Early Cretaceous Jehol Group on northeastern China and a revision of flight paradigm, pp. 27-43.
- MARTIN, L.D.: Origins of avian flight – a new perspective, pp. 45-54.
- ÖSI, A.: Enantiornithine bird remains from the Late Cretaceous of Hungary, pp. 55-60.
- MARTIN, L.D. & NAPLES, V.L.: Mandibular kinesis in *Hesperornis*, pp. 61-65.
- MAYR, G.: The higher-level phylogeny of birds - when morphology, molecules, and fossils coincide, pp. 67-74.
- BUFFETAUT, E.: First evidence of the giant bird *Gastornis* from southern Europe: a tibiotarsus from the Lower Eocene of Saint-Papoul (Aude, southern France), pp. 75-82.
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- GÖHLICH, U.B. & PAVIA, M.: A new species of *Palaeortyx* (Aves: Galliformes: Phasianidae) from the Neogene of Gargano, Italy, pp. 95-108.
- ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & TAMBUSI, C.: South American fossil penguins: a systematic update, pp. 109-127.

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- MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. & GERAADS, D.: The Struthionidae and Pelagornithidae (Aves: Struthioniformes, Odontopterygiformes) from the late Pliocene of Ahl Al Oughlam, Morocco, pp. 169-194.
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- ZELENKOV, N.V., KUROCHKIN, E.N., KARHU, A.A. & BALLMANN, P.: Birds of the Late Pleistocene and Holocene from the Palaeolithic Djuktai Cave site of Yakutia, Eastern Siberia, pp. 217-226.
- COOPER, J.H. & TENNYSON, A.J.D.: Wrecks and residents: the fossil gadfly petrels (*Pterodroma* spp.) of the Chatham Islands, New Zealand, pp. 227-248.
- TYRBERG, T.: The Late Pleistocene Continental Avian extinction – an evaluation of the fossil evidence, pp. 249-269.
- ILYINSKY, V.A.: Locomotor Adaptations in the Hindlimbs of Owls: the Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*), compared to the Little Owl (*Athene noctua*), pp. 271-276.

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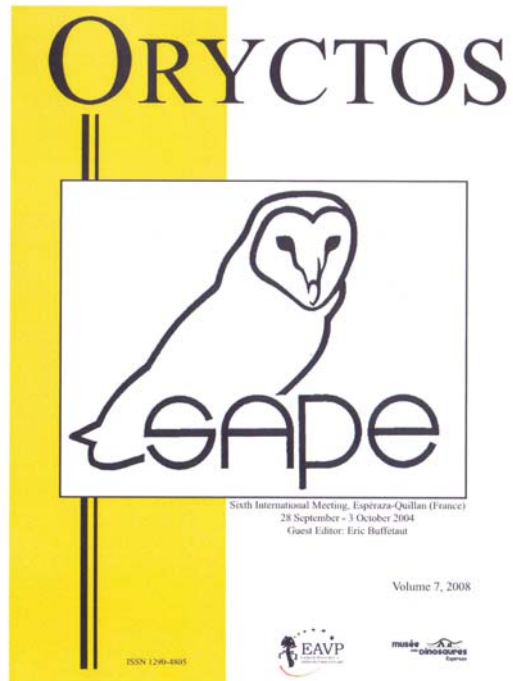
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PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2008 SAPE MEETING IN SYDNEY

The papers of the proceedings of the 2008 SAPE meeting are now **freely available** online as pdfs. **These can be accessed using the links below the paper titles.** When citing these works or when circulating information to your colleagues, we recommend you use the DOI rather than the Australian Museum URLs as the latter may change. To place an order for printed copy of the Proceedings, quote stock code no. 010R62A, and send your order to <http://shop.australianmuseum.net.au/>. r.r.p. AU\$95.00 (plus GST and handling).

The citation is: Boles, W.E. & Worthy, T.H. (2010, eds.): Proceedings of the VII International Meeting of the Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution. – Records of the Australian Museum 62(1): 1–216.

The volume includes the following papers (listed in order of publication):

BOLES, W.E. & WORTHY T.H.: Foreword, pp. 1–6.

[<http://dx.doi.org/10.3853/j.0067-1975.62.2010.1532>]

O'CONNOR, J. & DYKE, G.J.: A reassessment of *Sinornis santensis* and *Cathayornis yandica* (Aves: Enantiornithes), pp. 7–20.

[<http://dx.doi.org/10.3853/j.0067-1975.62.2010.1540>]

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[<http://dx.doi.org/10.3853/j.0067-1975.62.2010.1537>]

WEIDIG, I.: New birds from the Lower Eocene Green River Formation, North America, pp. 29–44.

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[<http://dx.doi.org/10.3853/j.0067-1975.62.2010.1536>]

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[<http://dx.doi.org/10.3853/j.0067-1975.62.2010.1557>]

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[<http://dx.doi.org/10.3853/j.0067-1975.62.2010.1545>]

SCOFIELD, R.P., WORTHY, T.H. & TENNYSON, A.J.D.: A heron (Aves: Ardeidae) from the Early Miocene St Bathans fauna of southern New Zealand, pp. 89–104.

[<http://dx.doi.org/10.3853/j.0067-1975.62.2010.1542>]

TENNYSON, A.J.D., WORTHY, T.H., JONES, C.M., SCOFIELD, R.P. & HAND, S.: Moa's Ark: Miocene fossils reveal the great antiquity of moa (Aves: Dinornithiformes) in Zealandia, pp. 105–114.

[<http://dx.doi.org/10.3853/j.0067-1975.62.2010.1546>]

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[<http://dx.doi.org/10.3853/j.0067-1975.62.2010.1535>]

CAMPBELL, K.E. & BOCHENSKI, Z.M.: A new genus for the extinct Late Pleistocene owl *Strix brea* Howard (Aves: Strigiformes) from Rancho La Brea, California, pp. 123–144.

[<http://dx.doi.org/10.3853/j.0067-1975.62.2010.1534>]

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[<http://dx.doi.org/10.3853/j.0067-1975.62.2010.1533>]

MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. & GERAADS, D.: The Upper Pliocene avifauna of Ahl al Oughlam, Morocco. Systematics and biogeography, pp. 157–184.

[<http://dx.doi.org/10.3853/j.0067-1975.62.2010.1538>]

PRASSACK, K.A.: Late Pliocene avifauna from the hominid-bearing *Zinjanthropus* land surface at Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania, pp. 185–192.

[<http://dx.doi.org/10.3853/j.0067-1975.62.2010.1541>]

TYRBERG, T.: Avifaunal responses to warm climate: the message from Last Interglacial faunas, pp. 193–205.

[<http://dx.doi.org/10.3853/j.0067-1975.62.2010.1543>]

DYKE, G.J. & KAISER, G.W.: Cracking a developmental constraint: egg size and bird evolution, pp. 207–216.

[<http://dx.doi.org/10.3853/j.0067-1975.62.2010.1547>]

SAPE TREASURER'S REPORT

The current balance in the U.S. SAPE bank account (Wachovia Free Business Checking) is \$5034.38. There have been no deposits or withdrawals during the past year.

For the past two years, David Steadman has tried several times to set up a PayPal account for the

payment of SAPE dues, but every time he has run into insoluble institutional snags. He has had grad students (very skilled at such matters) helping him every time, but to no avail. He is not sure what the next step should be, but he is open for suggestions.

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. She has analyzed the relationship between the morphology of the coracoids and the wing movement in fossil and modern penguin species. Applying an Elliptic Fourier Analysis, she determined the type of movement that the Antarctic Eocene penguins and the South American species would have had. New penguin material coming from Peru is also under study, together with the Peruvian colleagues Marcelo Stucchi and Ali Alamirano. Carolina is working together with the botanist Dr. Gonzalo Marquez, the lichenologist Dra. Vilma Rosato and the paleontologists Dr. Alberto Cione and Leandro Pérez on lichen bioerosion found in penguin bones. Her students are also studying seabirds: Noelia Corrado is working on the morphometry of penguin tarsometatarsi, evaluating the systematic and palaeobiological significance of different characters. Nadia Haidr is analyzing the functional morphology of several cranial and mandibular Antarctic remains. Nicolás Kass is currently working on the anatomy of living skuas through a quantitative focus in collaboration with Dr. Diego Montalti.

FEDERICO AGNOLIN is describing several Cretaceous Neornithine-like birds from the Latest Cretaceous of Patagonia. These specimens, although mostly represented by isolated bones, yield some light on the early composition and distribution of Mesozoic avifaunas from South America. In addition, together with Marcos Cenizo, we continue the identification and description of a large amount of bird bones coming from Late Pleistocene fossiliferous localities of the Argentine Pampas.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & DI CARLO, U. (2010): The coracoids in functional and morphological studies of penguins (Aves, Spheniscidae) of the Eocene of Antarctica. – *Rivista Italiana di Paleontologia e Stratigrafia*, 116: 23-34.

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: 759-774.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. MÁRQUEZ, G. PÉREZ, L. CIONE, A. & ROSATO, V. (2009): New discoveries about lichen traces on fossil vertebrates from Patagonia and Antarctica. Reunión Anual de Comunicaciones de la Asociación Paleontológica Argentina. Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, 25 al 27 de noviembre de 2009. – *Ameghiniana*, Suplemento Resúmenes 46(4): 60R.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., MONTALTI, D. & DEL VALLE, R. (2010): Mid-Holocene Skua remains from King George Island, Antarctica. *Paläontologische Zeitschrift*.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & REGUERO, M. (2010): First articulated skeleton of *Palaeudyptes gunnari* from the late Eocene of Seymour (= Marambio) Island (Antarctica). *Antarctic Sciences*, 22: 289-298.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & REGUERO, M. (2010): Main pathways in the evolution of Antarctic fossil penguins

(Seymour/Marambio Island, La Meseta Formation, Eocene). – X Congreso Argentino de Paleontología y Bioestratigrafía y VII Congreso Latinoamericano de Paleontología. La Plata, 20 al 24 de septiembre de 2010.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & REGUERO, M. (2010): Main pathways in the evolution of Antarctic fossil penguins: cooling events and marine circulation. – XXXI Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research, 30 July - 11 August 2010, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & REGUERO, M. (2010): Taxonomic status of the Eocene penguins *Orthopteryx gigas* Wiman, 1905 and *Ichthyopteryx gracilis* Wiman, 1905 from Antarctica. – XXV Jornadas Argentinas de Paleontología de Vertebrados. San Luis, 12 al 14 de mayo de 2010.

AGNOLIN, F.L. (2009): Una nueva especie del género *Megapalaelodus* (Aves: Phoenicopteridae: Palaelodinae) del Mioceno Superior del noroeste de Argentina. – *Revista del Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia"*, 11: 23-32.

AGNOLIN, F.L. (2009): Sistemática y filogenia de las aves fororracoideas (Gruiformes: Cariamae). – *Monografías Fundación Azara/Adrián Giacchino*. 79 pp.

AGNOLIN, F.L. (2009): El registro fósil de *Ciconia lydekkeri* Ameghino, 1891 en el Pleistoceno de Sudamérica. – *Studia Geologica Salmanticensis*, 45: 53-58.

AGNOLIN, F.L., CHIMENTO, N.R., FRANK, C. & LUCERO, R.F. (2009): Nuevos registros de aves argentinas. – *Nótulas Faunísticas*, 34: 1-4.

CHIMENTO, N.R., AGNOLIN, F.L., LUCERO, R.F. & OBREDOR, R. (2009): Nidificación del carpintero del cardón en la provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina. – *Nótulas Faunísticas*, 37: 1-3.

CIONE, A., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., PÉREZ, L., CÉSAR, I. & LAZA, J. (2010): Fossil traces on penguin bones from the Miocene of southern Argentina. – *Alcheringa*.

CORRADO, N. & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2010): Análisis morfológico del tarsometatarso de los pingüinos actuales y sus aportes a la sistemática del grupo. – XII Congreso de Ciencias Morfológicas, 16 y 17 de septiembre de 2010.

Haidr, N. & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2010): Restos craneales de pingüinos (Aves, Sphenisciformes) de la Formación La Meseta (Eoceno) de Península Antártica (Antártica). – XII Congreso de Ciencias Morfológicas, 16 y 17 de septiembre de 2010.

IBÁÑEZ, L., TAMBUSI, C. & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2010): Análisis morfométrico del surco nasal en aves. – *Ornitología Neotropical*, 21: 181-194.

KASS, N., MONTALTI, D. & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2010): El uso de análisis discriminantes para diferenciar el skua pardo del skua polar del sur. – XII Congreso de Ciencias Morfológicas, 16 y 17 de septiembre de 2010.

MONTALTI, D., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & DEL VALLE, R. (2009): New Holocene penguin assemblages at South Shetland Islands, Antarctica. *Neues Jahrbuch für Geologie und Paläontologie*, 254(3): 349-357.

PRATES, L. & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2010): Las aves de los sitios arqueológicos del valle medio del Río

Negro (Provincia de Río Negro, Argentina): Angostura 1 y Negro Muerto. – *Archaeofauna. International Journal of Archaeozoology*, 19:7-18.

VEZZOSI, R., BRUNETTO, E. & NORIEGA, J.I. (2010): Las Aves de la Formación Ñuapua (Holoceno Inferior) de Bolivia. – *Ameghiniana* 47(1): 123-128.

AUSTRALIA

WALTER BOLES has spent little time with real fossils, instead concentrating on seeing through to publication of the proceedings of the SAPE meeting held in Sydney, Australia, in August 2008. These were published on 26 May 2010 as 'Proceedings of the VII International Meeting of the Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution', ed. W.E. Boles and T.H. Worthy. 2010. *Records of the Australian Museum* 62(1): 1–216.

BOLES, W.E. & WORTHY, T.H. (2010, eds): Proceedings of the VII International Meeting of the Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution. – *Records of the Australian Museum*, 62(1). 212 pp.

BOLES, W.E. (2010): A revision of C.W. De Vis' fossil cormorants (Aves: Phalacrocoracidae). In Proceedings of the VII International Meeting of the Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution, ed. W.E. Boles and T.H. Worthy. – *Records of the Australian Museum*, 62: 145–155.

GAFF, P. & BOLES, W.E. (2010): A new eagle (Aves: Accipitridae) from the Mid Miocene Bullock Creek Fauna of northern Australia. In Proceedings of the

VII International Meeting of the Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution, ed. W.E. Boles and T.H. Worthy. – *Records of the Australian Museum*, 62: 71–76.

NGUYEN, J.M.T., BOLES, W.E. & HAND, S.J. (2010): New material of *Barawertornis tedfordi*, a dromornithid bird from the Oligo-Miocene of Australia, and its phylogenetic implications. In Proceedings of the VII International Meeting of the Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution, ed. W.E. Boles and T.H. Worthy. – *Records of the Australian Museum*, 62: 45–60.

WORTHY, T.H., HAND, S.J., NGUYEN, J.M.T., TENNYSON, A.J.D., WORTHY, J.P., SCOFIELD, R.P., BOLES, W.E. & ARCHER, M. (2010): Biogeographical and phylogenetic implications of an early Miocene wren (Aves: Passeriformes: Acanthisittidae) from New Zealand. – *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 30(2): 479-498.

AUSTRIA

In March 2010, URSULA GÖHLICH (Natural History Museum Vienna) organized the "37th Meeting of the Working group of Vertebrate Paleontology" at the Natural History Museum of Vienna, attended by about 70 participants. The 2nd Special volume on the Miocene Vertebrate fossil site Sandelzhausen (Southern Germany), guest-edited by G. Rössner (Munich) & Ursula Göhlich and dedicated to the late Volker Fahlbusch (Munich), appeared in March 2010 in the "Paläontologische Zeitschrift (84/1)". Together with P. Ballmann (Köln) Ursula is investigating a Miocene Tytonidae from Southern Germany. All her other current projects are focused on fossil mammals.

CALANDRA, I., GÖHLICH, U.B. & MERCERON, G. (2010): Feeding preferences of *Gomphotherium subtapiroideum* (Proboscidea, Mammalia) from the Miocene of Sandelzhausen (North Alpine Foreland Basin, southern Germany) through life- and geological time: evidence from dental microwear analysis. – *Paläontologische Zeitschrift*, 84/1: 205-215.

GÖHLICH, U.B. (2010): The Proboscidea (Mammalia) from the Miocene of Sandelzhausen (southern Germany). – *Paläontologische Zeitschrift*, 84/1: 163-204.

GÖHLICH, U.B. & MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. (2010): A new cormorant-like bird (Aves, Phalacrocoracoidea) from the Early Miocene of Rauscheröd (Southern

Germany). – In: BOLES, W.E. & WORTHY, T.H. (eds.): Proceedings of the VII International Meeting of the Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution. – *Records of the Australian Museum* 62(1): 61–70.

GÖHLICH, U.B. (2010): Tertiäre Urelfanten aus Deutschland. – In: MELLER, H. (ed.): *Elefantenreich. Eine Fossilwelt in Europa*: 363-372. – Landesamt für Denkmalpflege und Archäologie Sachsen-Anhalt (Halle).

HARZHAUSER, M., GÖHLICH, U., KROH, A., LUKENEDER, A. & MANDIC, O. (2010): Paläontologie. – In: JOVANOVIĆ-KRUSPEL, S. (ed.). *Naturhistorisches Museum Wien. Ein Führer durch die Schausammlungen*. – Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien; pp. 56-85.

RÖSSNER, G.E. & GÖHLICH, U.B. (2010, guest-eds.): Fossil lagerstätte Sandelzhausen (Miocene, southern Germany) – Contributions to the fauna, part II. – *Paläontologische Zeitschrift*, 84/1: 1-204.

RÖSSNER, G.E. & GÖHLICH, U.B. (2010): Editorial. – In: RÖSSNER, G.E. & GÖHLICH, U.B. (guest-eds.) Fossil lagerstätte Sandelzhausen (Miocene, southern Germany) – Contributions to the fauna, part II. – *Paläontologische Zeitschrift*, 84/1: 1-2.

RÖSSNER, G.E., GÖHLICH, U.B., MOSER, M. & ZIEGLER, R. (2009): Obituary Prof. Volker Fahlbusch (1934-2008). – *Zitteliana A*, 48/49: 3-12.

BULGARIA

ZLATOZAR BOEV prepared a manuscript on the Quaternary birds of the Loutraki Cave (N Macedonia, Greece) [excavations of Dr. Evangelia Tsoukala, School of Geology, University of Thessaloniki]. He was scientific tutor of three PhD students, (1) Dimitar Demerdzhiev:

Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca* Savigni, 1809) (Accipitridae - Aves) in Bulgaria – distribution, biology, ecology, number and conservation measures; (2) Nedko Nedyalkov: Diet of breeding Saker Falcons *Falco cherrug* in relation to prey availability; and (3) Ivaylo

Angelov: Conservation biology of the Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) (Aves: Falconiformes) in Bulgaria.

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FRANCE

ANTOINE LOUCHART finally obtained a CNRS permanent researcher position. His institutional address is at the Functional Genomics Institute, Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon in France, in the team «Evo-devo of Vertebrate dentition». He is starting a project about avian dentition, in an evo-devo perspective. He is also still working on earlier projects and topics: fossil birds from African sites, in particular on some families from Langebaanweg (early Pliocene, South Africa); insular evolution; the evolution of bird migrations; and fossils from the Oligocene of southeastern France. He is particularly happy this year to eventually be able to continue working on birds from the past. Among all the areas of paleontology and ornithology, working on fossil birds is especially rewarding in terms of human relationships; as harsh competition increasingly becomes the credo of the scientific community, it is very nice that, in our area, we can still somehow escape its deleterious aspects (and hopefully for some more time...). Antoine says *THANKS!* to all the people he had worked with along many years, and who helped him not to give up: starting with Cécile Mourer-Chauviré, and many people in France and over the world, who will recognize themselves.

CÉCILE MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ is happy to see that the study of the Late Pliocene avifauna of Ahl al Oughlam, Morocco, is achieved with the publication of the second part in the Proceedings of the VII International Meeting of the Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution. She has worked in collaboration with Ursula Göhlich on a primitive form of cormorant from the Early Miocene of Rauscheröd, Germany. She has finished the study of the avifauna from the Early Pleistocene locality of Senèze, for the monography which is planned on this locality. She is currently working on a very interesting bird from the Early Eocene of Glib Zegdou, in the Gour Lazib area, in the western part of the Algerian Sahara, in collaboration with Rodolphe Tabuce, from the University of Montpellier, and on the first Paleogene galliform from Africa, found by Martin Pickford and Brigitte Senut in the Early Middle Eocene of the Sperrgebiet region, in Namibia.

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GERMANY

ALBRECHT MANEGOLD now holds a fixed-term position at the Senckenberg Museum, Section of Ornithology, and continues studying mainly passerine birds from the Early Pliocene of Langebaanweg, South Africa. Few other taxa from Langebaanweg are studied in cooperation with Antoine Louchart, Lyon.

Together with David Rubilar from the Natural History Museum of Santiago, GERALD MAYR described a largely complete skeleton of one of the largest known bony-toothed birds. The fossil comes from the Miocene Bahía Inglesa Formation in Northern Chile, and was assigned to a new species of *Pelagornis*. It is about 70% complete and uncrushed, and includes all major limb bones, as well as most of the skull.

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HUNGARY

EUGEN KESSLER published his results on the Neogene and Quaternary avifauna from the Carpathian Basin gained in the last years. The articles were sent in

PDF format to SAPE for sharing them on the home page. The new species include: *Podiceps csarnotanus* Kessler, 2009; *Heliadornis minor* Kessler, 2009; *Egretta*

polgardiensis Kessler, 2009; *Clangula matraensis* Kessler, 2009; *Mergus minor* Kessler, 2009; *Heliornis sumeghensis* Kessler, 2009; *Porzana matraensis* Kessler, 2009; *Porzana kretzoi* Kessler, 2009; *Calidris janossyi* Kessler, 2009; *Charadrius lambrechtii* Kessler, 2009; *Diomedeoides harmathi* Kessler, 2009; *Cygnopterus neogradiensis* Kessler & Hir, 2009; *Cuculus pannonicus* Kessler, 2010; *Glaucidium baranensis* Kessler, 2010; *Eurystomus beremendensis* Kessler, 2010; *Corvus harkanyensis* Kessler, 2010. He also started to study the abundant assemblages of Early Miocene to Late Pliocene Passeriformes, which already yielded more than 100 new taxa. These results are going to be published by this year. He published his new hypothesis on the origin and evolution of birds in the journal of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences "Magyar Tudomány", and tries to publish an English version in a suitable journal.

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NEW ZEALAND

ALAN TENNYSON (Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa) continues work on the Miocene St Bathans Fauna, primarily with Trevor Worthy (University New South Wales) and Paul Scofield (Canterbury Museum). He has overseen the reorganisation of an exhibition at the national museum on the origins of New Zealand's biota, which now includes specimens from the St Bathans Fauna. After 9 years of work, the new Checklist of the birds of New Zealand has been published - authors include SAPE members Alan, Trevor, Paul and Brian Gill. The Checklist covers all New Zealand fossil birds, including synonyms and distributions. Alan has also been registering and rehousing the fossil reptile and fish collection at the national museum and these should soon be accessible via an electronic database.

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POLAND

PIOTR JADWISZCZAK studies sex-related issues in Eocene penguins

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RUSSIA

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SWEDEN

TOMMY TYRBERG is currently working on a completely revised and updated version of "Pleistocene birds of the Palearctic" (1998) which he hopes to publish online within a year. This version will also include geographical coordinates for nearly all sites.

- TYRBERG, T. (2009): Holocene avian extinctions. – In: TURVEY, S.T. (ed.): *Holocene Extinctions*, pp 63-107. – Oxford University Press.
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UNITED KINGDOM

STIG WALSH moved from the Natural History Museum (NHM), London in January, 2009, to take up a post as Senior Curator of Vertebrate Palaeontology at National Museums Scotland. Stig continues to investigate the evolution of the avian brain and senses, and together with Angela Milner (NHM) has recently completed an analysis of the brain of *Halcyornis toliapicus* from the Lower Eocene London Clay Formation of south east England. Stig is currently working on a NERC-funded project with the neuroethologist Andrew Iwaniuk (University of Lethbridge, Canada) that investigates whether the relative size of the avian cerebellar flocculus can provide information about flying capability in birds and their extinct relatives.

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UNITED STATES

Gainesville, Florida

DAVID STEADMAN has been Associate Director for Collections and Research at the Florida Museum of Natural History since August 2007. This department is

staffed by 23 faculty curators and 24 non-faculty positions (mostly collection managers), as well as numerous students, postdocs, and volunteers. While

Dave is happy to do this job (our world-class museum being such a worthy cause), it has been a challenge to find much time for research. Along with numerous students, volunteers, and FLMNH colleagues Jonathan Bloch, Richard Hulbert, Arthur Poyer, and Erika Simons, Dave continues to excavate the Early Miocene (Hemingfordian land mammal age) Thomas Farm site in northern Florida. New taxa of birds, represented by unassociated elements, continue to be discovered. The Thomas Farm avifauna now consists of at least 32 species, few of which are described. Dave's other main continental project focuses on waterfowl-dominated avifaunas from the Pliocene and Pleistocene (Blancan through Rancholabrean land mammal ages) of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. A paper was published (see below) on the late Pleistocene birds from Térapa, Sonora. Dave also has begun to study the late Miocene avifauna from the Gray Site, Tennessee. On islands, Dave continues to study bird fossils from late Quaternary sites (cultural and non-cultural) in the West Indies and the tropical Pacific, with a current focus on The Bahamas and The Turks & Caicos Islands. Student Oona Takano and Dave also are plowing through a huge set (many thousands) of late Holocene bird fossils from Haiti. Natalie Wright completed her M.S. on the morphological and molecular evolution of landbirds on Trinidad and Tobago. The first of several papers is now ready to submit for publication. Natalie has started a Ph.D. program at the University of New Mexico. Graduate student Jessica Oswald has been studying late Pleistocene passerine fossils from the Neotropics, featuring sites in Mexico, Venezuela, and Peru. The UF skeleton collection continues to grow in taxonomic and geographic coverage, with major recent additions of specimens from Florida, New Mexico, Peru, and various zoos and aviaries. We encourage all SAPE colleagues to visit our collection.

CARLSON, L.A. & STEADMAN, D.W. (2009): Faunal exploitation at two prehistoric inland villages from different time periods in Puerto Rico. – *Journal of Island and Coastal Archaeology*, 4: 207-222.

New York

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- STEADMAN, D.W. & MEAD, J.I. (2010): A late Pleistocene bird community from the northern edge of the tropics in Sonora, Mexico. – *American Midland Naturalist*, 163: 423-441.
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