SOCIETY OF AVIAN PALEONTOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

- Newsletter -

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Secretary: GERALD MAYR, Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg,
Senckenberganlage 25, D-60325 Frankfurt am Main, Germany e-mail: Gerald.Mayr@senckenberg.de

8TH INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF AVIAN PALEONTOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

VIENNA, AUSTRIA, 11-16 JUNE 2012

Venue: The meeting will be hosted by the Natural History Museum Vienna, (Austria) (http://www.nhm-wien.ac.at/en?null), which is located in the historical centre of Vienna. Tourist information is available on http://www.wien.info/en (in several languages).
All flights come into Vienna Schwechat International Airport, which is about 20 minutes from the centre of the city. Austrian requirements for visas differ among countries.
Please check the website of the Austrian Foreign Ministry if you need to obtain a visa in order to visit Austria.

Preliminary program
11 (Monday) – Evening "ice breaker" get together in the Museum
12 (Tuesday) – Scientific sessions; (if desired: late afternoon: fossil identification session)
13 (Wednesday) – Scientific sessions; (if desired: late afternoon: guided museum tours)
14 (Thursday) – Morning: ornithological excursion; afternoon: Scientific sessions; auction
15 (Friday) – Scientific sessions (eventually symposia or special sessions); conference banquet
16 (Saturday) – Field trip - combined ornithological and paleontological excursions in the Vienna area

Proceedings
We are pleased to announce that the next SAPE meeting and the subsequent proceedings will be dedicated to Cécile Mourer-Chauviré, in order to honour her outstanding paleornithological contributions and her long-lasting, active commitment for our organization.
The proceedings of the meeting will be published by the Natural History Museum Vienna. Deadline for submission of manuscripts will be shortly after the meeting in June 2012.

Collection access
The paleontological collection holds a nice material of bird fossils (>600 specimens) especially of the Tertiary and the Pleistocene, including a few holotypes (*Eostega lebedinsky*, *Telecrex peregrinus, Cypseloides mourerchauvirae, Gavia schultzi, Petralca austriaca, Heliadornis paratethydicus*) and a famous historical series of mounted skeletons of moas. Articles on some of the fossil bird material housed at the NHMW are published e.g. by Göhlich 2003 and 2009, Lambrecht 1929 and 1933, and Mlíkovský 1989, 1991, 1997 a+b, 1998, 2004, 2006.
For organizational reasons, the paleontological bird collection will be accessible only before or after the SAPE meeting. Please arrange for dates betimes with Ursula Göhlich (ursula.goehlich@nhm-wien.ac.at).

The ornithological collection (extant birds) of the Natural History Museum of Vienna comprises more than 8.000 skeletons, 95.000 skins, 10.000 eggs, and more than 10.000 mounted birds. For access to the ornithological collection please contact and arrange with the curator Ernst Bauernfeind (ernst.bauernfeind@nhm-wien.ac.at).

A **1st circular**, including registration form, abstract instructions, and all deadlines will be sent during the next weeks. The conference fee is not calculated in detail yet, but will be less than 100€. The conference fee will include the conference registration fee, the SAPE society dues, the proceedings volume, the ice breaker party, and the tea and coffee breaks at the Museum.

For questions and all other issues please contact the organizer:

Ursula GÖHLICH
Naturhistorisches Museum Wien – Natural History Museum Vienna
Geologisch-Paläontologische Abteilung – Department for Geology and Paleontology
Burgring 7
1020 Wien – Vienna
Austria

E-mail: ursula.goehlich@nhm-wien.ac.at
Phone: 0043-(0)1-52177-257
Fax: 0043-(0)1-52177-459

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

Next June the 8th SAPE meeting is held in Vienna. Although SAPE long has been a society first and foremost for avian paleontologists both the society and its meetings are open to anyone with a general interest in bird evolution. Our ambition is to open the society for people who do not think of themselves as paleontologists, but rather as students of the more general, all inclusive topic of avian evolution. Let us encourage students of relevant research areas, for example functional morphology and molecular systematics, to participate in the coming SAPE meeting. Let us also advertise our SAPE meeting among colleagues or when we go to other meetings. We will all benefit from the broadening of the base for our society. See you in Vienna 2012!

Per Ericson

FREE COPIES OF 1987 PROCEEDINGS

CÉCILE MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ still has several free copies of the Proceedings of the Table Ronde internationale "L'Evolution des Oiseaux d'après le Témoignage des Fossiles" which was held in Lyon-Villeurbanne in September 1985. It was during this meeting that the creation of the SAPE was decided. The Proceedings were published, in 1987, in the Documents des Laboratoires de Géologie de Lyon, vol. 99, 248 pages [most papers are in English].

If you are interested in a copy, please send an e-mail to Cécile at: cecile.mourer@univ-lyon1.fr

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERS AND RECENT PUBLICATIONS

ARGENTINA

CAROLINA ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE is always working on marine avifaunas, including modern and fossil remains, with a particular emphasis on Cenozoic penguins from South America and Antarctica. Her main goal is the anatomical study of the skeleton and its functional implications in penguins and other seabirds. Looking for an integrative analysis of the skeleton and the associated musculature, she has studied the anatomy of the penguin scapula, in relationship with the diving kinetics. New material from Antarctica is under study, including a giant penguin femur with signs of damage by perimortem fractures, and a new partial skeleton belonging to a large Eocene penguin. Besides, singular Antarctic tarsometatarsi were revised in collaboration with Dr. Jadwiszczak. New material was also recovered from the Neogene of Argentina. Among this are remains from an Oligocene-Miocene penguin from the Northwestern Patagonia, a tibiotarsus from the Miocene of Tierra del Fuego, and several isolated bones from the Miocene of Puerto Madryn Formation. All of these are currently under study. Juan Diederle, a graduate student, is working in his phD together Carolina and Dr. Jorge Noriega. He is working on "The Anhingidae (Aves: Pelecaniformes) from the Neogene of South America: systematic, phylogeny and paleobiology". Besides, the undergraduate scholar Nadia Haidr is focusing on the functional morphology of cranial and mandibular Antarctic remains; and Nicolás Kass is currently working on the anatomy of living skuas through a quantitative approach in collaboration with Carolina and Dr. Diego Montalti.

FEDERICO AGNOLIN is currently working together with Fernando Novas on the dinosaur-bird transition, with special focus on the detailed description of key taxa, such as *Unenlagia* and its kin. In addition, several new Neogene fossils coming from the Pampean region, including new Pleistocene fossiliferous localities are being described. In addition, a very large fossil Picidae of the genus *Colaptes*, showing striking terrestrial adaptations is currently being described.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2011): De las aves que vuelan…me gustan los pingüinos. − Naturaleza Aragonesa, 26: 4-10.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (in press). A new Patagonian penguin skull: taxonomic value of cranial characters. − Ameghiniana.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., ALTAMIRANO, A., & STUCCHI, M. (2011): Variaciones morfológicas de los tarsometatarsos de pingüinos (Aves, Sphenisciformes) en la secuencia estratigráfica de la formación Pisco (Mio-Plioceno), Perú. − Revista Mexicana de Ciencias Geológicas, 28: 290-300.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., ALTAMIRANO SIERRA, A. & STUCCHI, M. (2011, abstract sent): Variaciones morfológicas del tarsometatarso de Spheniscus (Aves, Sphenisciformes) en la Formación Pisco (Mioceno-Plioceno), Perú. − IV Congreso Latinoamericano de Paleontología de Vertebrados. San Juan, 21 al 24 de septiembre de 2011.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE & HAIDR, N. (2011): Penguin (Aves, Sphenisciformes) cranial remains from the La Meseta Formation (Eocene) of Antarctic Peninsula (Antarctica). − Antarctic Sciences, 23: 369-378.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & JADWISZCZAK, P. (2011): Enigmatic morphological disparity in tarsometatarsi of Antarctic giant penguins. − Polish Polar Research, 23 (2): 175-180.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., MÁRQUEZ, G., PEREZ, L., ROSATO, V., & CIONE, A. (2011): Lichen bioerosion on fossil vertebrates from the Cenozoic of Patagonia and Antarctica. − Ichnos, 18: 1-8.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & REGUERO, M. (2011): Evolution and biogeography of paleogene Weddellian penguins (Aves: Sphenisciformes) of the James Ross Basin, Antarctica. − 11th International Symposium on Antarctic Earth Sciences, 10-16 july, Edinburgh, Scotland.

AGNOLIN, F.L. (2010): An avian coracoid from the Upper Cretaceous of Patagonia, Argentina. – Studia Geologica Salmanticensia, 46: 99-119.

AGNOLIN, F.L., & NOVAS, F.E. (2011): Unenlagiid theropods: are they members of the Dromaeosauridae? – Anais da Academia Brasileira de Ciencias, 83: 117-162.

AGNOLIN, F.L., & NOVAS, F.E. (2011): A carpometacarpus from the Upper Cretaceous of Patagonia sheds light on the ornithurine bird radiation. – Paläontologische Zeitschrift. In press.

ARETA, J.I., NORIEGA, J.I., PAGANO, L. & ROESLER, I. (2011): Unravelling the ecological radiation of the capuchinos: systematics of Dark-throated Seedeater *Sporophila ruficollis* and description of a new dark-collared form. – Bulletin of the British Ornithological Club, 131 (1):4-23.

CENIZO, M. & AGNOLIN, F.L. (2010): The southernmost records of Anhingidae and a new basal species of Anatidae (Aves) from the lower-middle Miocene of Patagonia. – Alcheringa, 34: 493-514.

CHIMENTO, N.R., LA GROTTERIA, J., AGNOLIN, F.L., & LUCERO, R.F. (2011): Nuevos registros del carpintero del cardón (Melanerpes cactorum) en la provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina. – Historia Natural, 1: 95-99.

CIONE, A., DOZO, M. T, COZZUOL, M. & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2011): Marine vertebrate assemblages in southwestern atlantic during the Miocene. − Biological Journal of the Linnean Society, 103: 423-440.

HAIDR, N. & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2011, abstract sent): Restos craneales y mandibulares de pingüinos eocenos de Antártida: morfología y paleobiología. − XIII Congreso de Ciencias Morfológicas. La Plata, 13 y 14 de octubre de 2011.

MEDINA, M. & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (in press): Huevos de Rhea pennata en el Holoceno Tardío de Córdoba: implicancias ambientales, zoogeográficas y arqueológicas. − Archaeofauna: International Journal of Archaeozoology, 20.

NORIEGA, J.I., ARETA, J.I., VIZCAÍNO, S.F. & BARGO, M.S. 2011 (in press): Phylogeny and taxonomy of the Patagonian Miocene Falcon *Thegornis musculosus* Ameghino, 1895 (Aves: Falconidae). – Journal of Paleontology, 85 (6): 1089-1104.

NOVAS, F.E., AGNOLIN, F.L., & SCANFERLA, A.C. (2010): New enantiornithine bird (Aves, Ornithothoraces) from the Late Cretaceous of NW Argentina. – Comptes Rendus Palevol, 2010.

AUSTRALIA

TREVOR WORTHY is now finishing his third year at the University of New South Wales in, Sydney, Australia. Recent research maintains previous themes with a mixture of projects on the Quaternary of New Zealand, the Early Miocene St Bathans Fauna of NZ, Pacific islands, the Australian Neogene, and modern nomenclatural and phylogenetic issues. The paper on *Spororomiella* is significant as it is shown that this coprophilous fungi is present in bird dung, and that its presence is likely indicative of any herbivore. He notes below a deviation into reptilia with two papers on giant terrestrial turtles in Oceania which may interest some of this audience. The new NZ Checklist has an Appendix listing the pre-Quaternary fossil taxa whereas Late Quaternary extinct and historically extinct species are listed with the extant fauna. This annotated checklist attempts to provide complete synonymies for all naturally occurring NZ taxa and so is a far more useful resource for taxonomists than previous editions.

ANDERSON, A., SAND, C., PETCHEY, F. & WORTHY, T.H. (2010): Faunal extinction and human habitation in New Caledonia: initial results and implications of new research at the Pindai Caves. – Journal of Pacific Archaeology, 1: 89-109.

CHECKLIST COMMITTEE, ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND; GILL, B.J. (CONVENER), BELL, B.D., CHAMBERS, G.K., MEDWAY, D.G., SCOFIELD, R.P., TENNYSON, A.J.D., WORTHY, T.H. (2010): Letter supporting Case 3499 'Comments on the proposed conservation of *Anthochaera* Vigors & Horsfield, 1827 and *Philesturnus* Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1832 (Aves) by suppression of the generic name *Creadion* Vieillot, 1816'. – Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature, 67: 94.

GILL, B.J., BELL, B.D. CHAMBERS, G.K. MEDWAY, D.G. PALMA, R.L. SCOFIELD, R.P., TENNYSON A.J.D. & WORTHY, T.H. (2010): Checklist of the Birds of New Zealand, Norfolk and Macquarie Islands, and the Ross Dependency, Antarctica. 4th Edition. Ornithological Society of New Zealand & Te Papa Press, Wellington, 500 pp.

HOLLAND, B.R., SPENCER, H.G., WORTHY, T.H. & KENNEDY, M. (2010): Identifying Cliques of Convergent Characters: Concerted Evolution in the Cormorants and Shags. – Systematic Biology, 59: 1-13.

HYDE, N.H.S. & WORTHY, T.H. (2010): The diet of New Zealand falcons (*Falco novaeseelandiae*) on the Auckland Islands, New Zealand. – Notornis, 57: 19-26.

IRWIN, G., WORTHY, T.H., BEST, S., HAWKINS, S., CARPENTER, J. & MATARARABA, S. (2011). Further investigations at the Naigani Lapita site (VL 21/5), Fiji: Excavation, radiocarbon dating and palaeofaunal extinction. – Journal of Pacific Archaeology, 2 (2): 66-78.

RAWLENCE, N.J., SCOFIELD, R.P., WOOD, J.R., WILMSHURST, J.M., MOAR, N.T. & WORTHY, T.H. (2011): New palaeontological data from the excavation of the Late Glacial Glencrieff miring bone deposit, North Canterbury, South Island, New Zealand. – Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand iFirst, 2011: 1-20.

TENNYSON, A.J.D., PALMA, R.L., SCOFIELD, R.P. & WORTHY, T.H. (2010): Emending the species name for Lopdells' penguin. – Notornis, 57: 54-55.

WHITE, A.W., WORTHY, T.H., HAWKINS, S., BEDFORD, S. & SPRIGGS, M. (2010): Megafaunal meiolaniid horned turtles survived until early human settlement in Vanuatu, Southwest Pacific. – Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the U.S.A., 107 (350): 15512-15516.

WOOD J.R., WILMSHURST, J.M., WORTHY, T.H. & COOPER, A. (2011): *Sporormiella* as a proxy for non-mammalian herbivores in island ecosystems. – Quaternary Science Reviews, 30: 915-920.

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

WORTHY, T.H. & BOLLT, R. (2011): Prehistoric Birds and Bats from the Atiahara Site, Tubuai, Austral Islands, East Polynesia. – Pacific Science, 65 (1): 69–85.

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: 479-498.

WORTHY, T.H., JONES, J. & SIMPSON, T. (2010): Deep secrets – discovering New Zealand's tropical past. – New Zealand Geographic, 107: 44-55.

WORTHY, T.H., TENNYSON, A.J.D., HAND, S.J., GODTHELP, H. & SCOFIELD, R.P. (2011): Terrestrial turtle fossils from New Zealand refloat Moa's Ark. – Copeia 2011, 1: 72-76.

WORTHY, T.H., TENNYSON, A.J.D. & SCOFIELD, R.P. (2011): Fossils reveal an early Miocene presence of the aberrant gruiform Aves: Aptornithidae in New Zealand. – Journal of Ornithology, 152: 669-680.

WORTHY, T.H., TENNYSON, A.J.D. & SCOFIELD, R.P. (2011): An Early Miocene diversity of parrots (Aves: Strigopidae: Nestorinae) from New Zealand. – Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology, 31 (5): 1102-1116.

WORTHY, T.H. & BOLES W.E. (2011): *Australlus*, a new genus for *Gallinula disneyi* (Aves: Rallidae) and a description of a new species from Oligo-Miocene deposits at Riversleigh, Northwestern Queensland, Australia. – Records of the Australian Museum, 63 (1): 61–77.

WORTHY, T.H., TENNYSON, A.J.D. & SCOFIELD, R.P. (2011): Fossils reveal an early Miocene presence of the aberrant gruiform Aves: Aptornithidae in New Zealand. – Journal of Ornithology, 152: 669-680.

WORTHY T.H., TENNYSON, A.J.D., HAND, S.J., GODTHELP, H. & SCOFIELD R.P. (2011): Terrestrial turtle fossils from New Zealand refloat Moa's Ark. – Copeia, 2011 (1): 72-76.

AUSTRIA

In July 2011, URSULA GÖHLICH (Natural History Museum Vienna) successfully finished here habilitation at the University of Munich (Germany). Her joint investigation with P. Ballmann (Köln) on a Miocene Tytonidae from Southern Germany is close to be finished. All her other current scientific projects are focused on fossil mammals. Ursula was and is also involved in and quite occupied by the renovation of the exhibit of the so-called "dinosaur" hall at the Natural History Museum of Vienna, which will be opened in October 2011. Even if Ursula will be at a maternity leave presumably between mid October 2011 and March 2012, the organisation of the next SAPE meeting (11^{th}-16^{th} June 20112) at the Natural History Museum in Vienna is under progress; a first circular with the inscription form will be sent soon.

DAXNER-HÖCK, G., BADAMGARAV, D., ERBAJEVA, M. & GÖHLICH, U.B. (in press): Miocene Mammal Biostratigraphy of Central Mongolia (Valley of Lakes): New Results. – In: Wang, X., Flynn, L.J. & Fortelius, M. (eds.): Neogene Terrestrial Mammalian Biostratigraphy and Chronology of Asia. (Columbia University Press).

HARZHAUSER, M., DAXNER-HÖCK, G., GÖHLICH, U.B. & NAGEL, D. (2011): Complex faunal mixing in the early Pannonian paleo-Danube Delta (Late Miocene, Lower Austria). – Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museum Wien, 113A: 167-208.

CHIAPPE, L.M. & GÖHLICH, U.B. (2010): Anatomy of Juravenator starki (Theropoda: Coelurosauria) from the Late Jurassic of Germany. – Neues Jahrbuch für Geologie und Paläontologie, 258(3): 257-296.

BULGARIA

ZLATOZAR BOEV examined avian remains from two Neolithic settlements in SE Bulgaria: (1) near Sarnevo village (ca. 5400 BC - Stara Zagora Region) and (2) near Hadzhidimovo village (ca. 5200-5000 BC - Yambol Region). He was scientific tutor of tree phD students: (1) Dimitar Demerdzhiev: Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca* Savigni, 1809) in Bulgaria – distribution, biology, ecology, number and conservation measures; (2) Nedko Nedyalkov: Diet of breeding Saker Falcons *Falco cherrug* in relation to prey availability; (3) Ivaylo Angelov: Conservation biology of the Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) in Bulgaria

BOEV, Z. (2010): Pliocene and Quaternary paleoenvironment in Bulgaria - a brief review. – In: Petkov (ed.): Bulgaria and the Bulgarians in Europe. – Union of the Scientists in Bulgaria. Veliko Tarnovo Branch. Faber Publ. House, Veliko Tarnovo. 266-384 [in Bulgarian].

BOEV, Z. (2010): 25-th anniversary of death of Nikolay Boev (08.05.1922-12-11-1985). – Za ptitsite 2: 36-37 [in Bulgarian].

BOEV, Z. (2011): *Falco bulgaricus* sp. n. (Aves, Falconiformes) from the Middle Miocene of Hadzhidimovo (SW Bulgaria). – Acta zoologica bulgarica, 63 (1): 17-35.

BOEV, Z. (2011): In memoriam. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stefan Donchev (09.05.1931-12.12.2010). – Acta zoologica bulgarica, 63 (1): 116.

BOEV, Z. (2011):No mistery: The Man is guilty. – Sedmichen Trud, 5/02.02.2011, p. 14 [in Bulgarian].

BOEV, Z. (2011): In memoriam: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stefan Donchev (09.05.1931-12.12.2010). – Nauka, USB, 1:80 [in Bulgarian].

BOEV, Z. (2011): A valuable source on the history of Bulgarian zoology. – Nauka, USB, 1:84 [in Bulgarian].

BOEV, Z. (2011): The ornithologist Stefan Donchev (09.05.1931-12.12.2010) has passed away. – Za Ptitsite, 1: 39 [in Bulgarian].

BOEV, Z. (2011): The ornithologist Stefan Donchev. A Short Bio-Bibliography. – Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, Sofia, 1-20.

FRANCE

ANTOINE LOUCHART started his project on avian dentition and the loss of teeth in birds, and also investigations on pseudo-teeth, with several collaborations. Several studies are underway, and a review in press. Among other topics, he also continues working on insular birds, and Cenozoic European and African fossils, including Langebaanweg. With collaborations with Albrecht Manegold, new results were presented at the meeting in Cape Town by Albrecht (Langebaanweg 2010: 15-17 November, "Changing Landscapes and Biotas of the Cape West Coast"). Antoine also participated in the Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Human Evolution in two volumes (with two entries !) (2011, Ed. B. A. Wood, 2 volumes).

CÉCILE MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ has worked on a bird femur found by a team of paleontologists from the Universities of Montpellier II (France), Oran and Tlemcen (Algeria), in the late early Eocene, or early middle Eocene, of Glib Zegdou, in the Gour Lazib area, South Western Algeria. It corresponds to a large bird, weighting about 32 kg, and which was very probably flightless. This femur shows the morphological characteristics of the phororhacoid birds of South America, and is particularly close to the femora of the genera *Patagornis* and *Andalgalornis*. The occurrence of a phororhacoid bird in the Eocene of Africa confronts us with a paleobiogeographical problem. We have proposed two hypotheses, either an early dispersal of small members of this group, which were still able to a limited flight, or a transoceanic dispersal of flightless birds from South America to Africa during the Paleocene or the earliest Eocene. This paper has just been published in Naturwissenschaften. The new early Eocene locality (MP 8 + 9) of La Borie, at Saint-Papoul, in Southern France, has yielded beautiful material of Gastornithidae. A preliminary study indicates the occurrence of Eogruidae, and it is the first time that this family is identified in Western Europe. A more detailed publication is planned in the future.

FAURE, M., GUÉRIN, C. & MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. (2010): L'art rupestre du Parc National Serra da Capivara (Piaui, Brésil): bestiaire figuré et données paléontologiques. – Anais do Congresso internacional de Arte Rupestre IFRAO «Global Rock Art», Parque Nacional Serra da Capivara, Piaui, Brasil, 29 de junho – 3 de julho de 2009. FUNDHAMentos, IX, II: 1-15.

LAURENT, Y., ADNET, S., BOURDON, E., CORBALAN, D., DANILO, L., DUFFAUD, S., FLEURY, G., GARCIA, G., GODINOT, M., LE ROUX, G., MAISSONAVE, C., METAIS, G., MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C., PRESSEQ, B., SIGÉ, B. & SOLÉ, F. (2010): La Borie (Saint-Papoul, Aude): un gisement exceptionnel dans l'Eocène basal du Sud de la France. – Bulletin de la Société d'Histoire naturelle de Toulouse, 146: 89-103.

LOUCHART, A. (2011): Aves. – In: Harrison, T.H. (ed.): Paleontology and Geology of Laetoli: Human Evolution in Context. Volume 2: Fossil Hominins and the Associated Fauna. – Vertebrate Paleobiology and Paleoanthropology: 505-533.

LOUCHART, A. (2011): Paleornithology, *Bubo insularis* and deletion of putative records of Brown Fish Owl in the western Mediterranean. – Dutch Birding, 33 (4): 251-252.

LOUCHART, A. & MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. (2011): The Dodo was not so slim: leg dimensions and scaling with body mass. Naturwissenschaften, 98: 357-358.

LOUCHART, A., TOURMENT, N. & CARRIER, J. (2011): The earliest known pelican reveals 30 million years of evolutionary stasis in beak morphology. – Journal of Ornithology, 152: 15-20.

LOUCHART, A. & VIRIOT, L. (2011): Comment les oiseaux ont-ils perdu leurs dents ? Une revue à partir du registre fossile. – Cahiers de l'Association Dentaire Française, 27: 17-28.

LOUCHART, A. & VIRIOT, L. (in press): From snout to beak: the loss of teeth in birds. – Trends in Ecology and Evolution.

MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C., Pickford, M. & Senut, B. (2011): The first Palaeogene galliform from Africa. – Journal of Ornithology, 152 (3): 617-622.

MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C., TABUCE, R., MAHBOUBI, M., ADACI, M. & BENSALAH, M. (2011): A Phororhacoid bird from the Eocene of Africa. – Naturwissenschaften, doi: 10.1007/s00114-011-0829-5

PICKFORD, M., SENUT, B., HIPONDOKA, M., PERSON, A., SEGALEN, L., PLET, C., JOUSSE, H., MEIN, P., GUÉRIN, C., MORALES, J. & MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. (2009, issued in 2011): Mio-Plio-Pleistocene geology and palaeobiology of Etosha Pan, Namibia. – Communs Geological Survey of Namibia, 14: 95-139.

GERMANY

ALBRECHT MANEGOLD holds a fixed-term position at the Senckenberg Museum, Section of Ornithology, and continues studying birds form the Early Pliocene of Langebaanweg, South Africa, some of them in cooperation with Antoine Louchart, Lyon. He finished the description of fossil birds from the Middle Pleistocene and mid-Holocene of Florisbad, South Africa together with James Brink and studies remains of Picidae and Passeriformes from Miocene of France in cooperation with Vanesa De Pietri.

GERALD MAYR currently studies material from the early Oligocene of Belgium and the Czech republic, as well as middle Eocene bird remains from Ukraine and China (the latter in cooperation with Wang Min and Zhonghe Zhou from the IVPP).

DE PIETRI, V. L., COSTEUR, L., GÜNTERT, M. & MAYR, G. (2011): A revision of the Lari (Aves: Charadriiformes) from the early Miocene of Saint-Gérand-le-Puy (Allier, France). – Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology, 31 (4): 812-828.

DE PIETRI, V. L., MANEGOLD, A., COSTEUR, L. & MAYR, G. (2011): A new species of woodpecker (Aves; Picidae) from the early Miocene of Saulcet (Allier, France). – Swiss Journal of Palaeontology. doi: 10.1007/s13358-011-0021-8.

MANEGOLD, A. (2010): First evidence for a nightjar (Caprimulgidae, Aves) in the early Pliocene of Langebaanweg, South Africa. – Palaeobiodiversity and Palaeoenvironments, 90: 163-168.

MANEGOLD, A. (2010): Two swallow species from the early Pliocene of Langebaanweg (South Africa). – Acta Palaeontologica Polonica, 55: 765-768.
MANEGOLD, A. & BRINK, J.S. (2011): Descriptions and palaeoecological implications of bird remains from the Middle Pleistocene of Florisbad, South Africa. – Paläontologische Zeitschrift, 85: 19-32.
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HUNGARY

EUGEN KESSLER has finished the study of the avian fauna of the Carpathian Basin. The results are going to be presented in a book, first in Hungarian, than in English. Recently he is working on the Pliocene bird remains from Villány Hill in Southern Hungary that includes a number of songbird remains. Eugen also works on the status of avian remains from Cornet (Romania) after their revision done by G. Dyke and his colleagues, and is finishing his theory on the origin and evolution of birds.

NEW ZEALAND

PAUL SCOFIELD (Canterbury Museum) has had a disrupted year with the large earthquakes of 4 September 2010 and 22 February 2011 badly affecting the museum. The museum was closed for several months and remediation work on the building is ongoing. The good news is that the palaeontology and osteology collections were virtually unaffected by the earthquake. He continues work on the Miocene St Bathans Fauna with Trevor Worthy (University New South Wales) and Alan Tennyson (Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa). He has continued collaboration on ancient DNA research on moa and has recently begun collaboration with Julia Clarke describing new Paleocene penguin (c.f. *Waimanu*) material from North Canterbury.

ALAN TENNYSON (Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa) continues work on various fossil and bird projects, particularly the Miocene St Bathans Fauna with Trevor Worthy (University of New South Wales) and Paul Scofield (Canterbury Museum). Images of an increasing number of Te Papa's fossils, especially the reptile collection, are now online at http://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/Search.aspx?imagesonly=off&advanced=colCollectionType%3A%22Fossil+Vertebrates%22

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POLAND

PIOTR JADWISZCZAK continues work on extinct Antarctic penguins (from both West and East Antarctica).

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RUSSIA

NIKITA ZELENKOV has defended his dissertation thesis entitled "Neogene birds from the Central Asia", and is currently preparing a monograph based on this research.

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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.

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UNITED KINGDOM

ESTELLE BOURDON started a two-year postdoc (Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship) at the Natural History Museum London (NHM), in November 2010. She is working on avian brain evolution together with Angela Milner (NHM) and Stig Walsh (National Museums Scotland).

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