SOCIETY OF AVIAN PALEONTOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

- Newsletter -

nº 27, October 2013

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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, we appear to be rapidly approaching the end of 2013, which means it is now over a year since our meeting in Vienna. We have all been pretty busy since then. I thank those of our member whom contributed to the SAPE proceedings of that meeting, and I understand from Ursula Göhlich that publication of the 18 manuscripts is on track for the autumn of 2013.

Subscriptions: During the year we ran a bit of a campaign to get members and targeted other folk to renew their subscriptions or join SAPE, with some success. The current subscription rate is 5Euros per year, i.e. less than a beer, so I would urge those members whom have yet to do so to check out our website (http://www2.nrm.se/ve/birds/sape/list001.html.en) and the link at the University of Southampton, and sign up their 20 Euro, which will take them through to 2016.

Trevor Worthy

CÉCILE MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ TRAVEL GRANT

SAPE has the pleasure of reminding members of the recently established fund – the Cécile Mourer-Chauviré Travel Grant. The fund honors the prestigious career and outstanding dedication to mentoring of Cécile Mourer-Chauviré, SAPE's first Secretary and one of the Society's founding members. The scope of this fund is to provide travel aid to graduate students and other disadvantaged scholars presenting papers at SAPE meetings – applicants should contact members of the Executive Council to receive additional information and the application guidelines. Future proceeds from auctions will be allocated within this fund. Nonetheless, those who wish to contribute to this Fund can make specific donations by contacting our Treasurer, Gareth Dyke. Students are an integral part of our Society. The Executive Council feels strongly about providing financial assistance and increasing the participation of graduate students in future SAPE meetings. We encourage all professional members to contribute the additional funds that will sustain the Cécile Mourer-Chauviré Student Travel Grant and warrant its lasting impact.

SAPE SESSION ON FOSSIL AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF VERTEBRATE PALAEONTOLOGISTS

Eric Buffetaut and Nikita Zelenkov organized a special session on fossil birds, co-sponsored by SAPE, at the annual meeting of the European Association of Vertebrate Palaeontologists, held in Villers-sur-Mer (France) in June 2013. The one-day session, on 14th June, brought together fifteen participants from France, Italy, the United Kingdom, Russia, China, the United States, Chile and South Africa. Twelve oral communications and two posters were presented. Presentations dealt with fossil birds ranging in age from Early Cretaceous to Miocene, with a wide range of approaches, including oology, histology and ichnology. It is planned to publish some of the papers issuing from this session as a special issue of *Historical Biology*.

The complete programme and abstracts of this session can be found at http://www.paleospace-villers.fr/viescientifique/congres.php and also here.

26TH INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS 2014 IN TOKYO

Members of SAPE are informed that there will be a special symposium on fossil birds on the 26th International Ornithological Congress in Tokyo: New finds and old bones – integrative palaeornithology for the 21st century. **Deadline for abstract submission is 30th September 2013** (see http://ioc26.jp/index.html).

2014 EVAP MEETING IN TORINO, ITALY

Thanks to the initiative of Marco Pavia, there will also be a session on avian paleontology and evolution at the next meeting of the European Association of Vertebrate Paleontologists (EAVP), which will be held in Torino (Piemonte, Italy) from June 24th-28th, 2014. Marco has discussed the opportunity of having a session on fossil birds under the patronage of SAPE with other EAVP board members and the idea has found support.

The session of 2013 EAVP meeting was very successful with 13 presentations, so we can expect at least a half-a-day session with 6 to 7 presentations altogether, plus posters if needed. EAVP meetings have a very broad scope, as they encompass all of vertebrate palaeontology, so a special session on birds should be rather open, too. The first circular will be sent in October and SAPE members interested in taking part at this meeting should contact Marco or one of the members of the SAPE board.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2012 SAPE MEETING AND EVGENY KUROCHKIN MEMORIAL VOLUME

The proceedings volume of the last SAPE volume will contain 18 scientific articles. Ursula Göhlich and Andreas Kroh are currently editing the articles and have already started to send out the proofs for more than half of the submitted articles. Publishing date is scheduled for the end of 2013. All participants of the SAPE meeting in Vienna and all authors will receive a printed hard copy of the proceedings volume after its publication. We will also provide pdfs of the articles. The citation of the volume is: Göhlich, U.B. & Kroh, A. (eds): Paleornithological Research 2013 – Proceedings of the 8th International Meeting of the Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution. Vienna (Natural History Museum Vienna). Please note that, as announced on the meeting in Vienna, the proceedings will be published as a separate volume and not in the "Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museums" of the Vienna museum.

The memorial volume for Evgeny Kurochkin, which is edited by Nikita Zelenkov, is also planned to be published in November/December 2013, and the proofs should be expected in September/October.

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERS AND RECENT PUBLICATIONS

ARGENTINA

CAROLINA ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE is working mainly on fossil penguins. Most fossils under study come from the Paleogene of Antarctica, and some others from the Neogene of Argentina and Chile. Her main goal is the study of the skeleton, associated musculature and functional implications in penguins and other seabirds. She is working in collaboration with Dr. Piotr Jadwiszczak in several projects related to Antarctic fossil penguins. Together with Dr. Marcelo Reguero, Carolina is studying new Antarctic material, including a very complete skeleton assigned to *Palaeeudyptes klekowskii* and some other isolated penguin remains. Carolina is also working with different colleagues from Chile: she collaborates with Roberto Yury Yañez in the study of neogene fossil penguins , with Sergio Soto Acuña in the description of Sulidae, and with Ana Valenzuela Toro in the holistic study of a new fossiliferous locality. The Ph.D. student Juan Diederle, whose advisors are Carolina and Jorge Noriega, is still working on “The Anhingidae (Aves: Pelecaniformes) from the Neogene of South America: systematics, phylogeny and paleobiology”. The undergraduate student Nadia Haidr is applying, together with Carolina and Flavio Quintana, for a scholarship for her Ph.D. in morphometric models and functional morphology in penguins.

FEDERICO AGNOLÍN is presently working on several topics regarding the origin and early evolution of birds. Recently, coauthored with Fernando Novas, he has finished the detailed description of the avian-like theropod *Unenlagia comahuensis*, including its implication for early avian evolution. On the other side, together with Marcos Cenizo, he is working on several different topics of avian biogeography of South America according to the palaeobiogeographical model proposed by Ezcurra and Agnolin (2013). Additionally, he is describing several new avian taxa from the Pleistocene of the Argentine Pampas, that shed light on recent distribution and avian composition in the Southern cone.

FEDERICO J. DEGRANGE is now working at a new institution (CICTERRA), located at Córdoba (central Argentina). He continues working on the paleobiology of terror birds (Cariamiformes, Phorusrhacidae) with the approaches used during his PhD dissertation, including skull morphology studies, jaw muscle reconstruction and biomechanics, and morphometric and geomorphometric studies of the pelvis and hindlimb. New studies include the description of a new species of medium-sized phorusrhacid from Argentina which shed new light on the phylogeny and sensory capabilities of phorusrhacids. He includes paleoneurological approaches to his studies, using 3D reconstruction through computed tomographies. This led Federico to reconstruct the brain, inner ear, cranial nerves and blood vessel of extant (e.g., ratites, diurnal raptors) and extinct birds (e.g., terror birds, penguins). Together with Claudia Tambussi and Daniel Ksepka, he is studying the endocast of Antarctic Eocene penguins and also with Claudia he has recently published a compendium of the Cenozoic bird assemblages from South America and Antarctica. He is working with María C. Mosto on the study of the biomechanics of raptors talons.

JUAN MARCELO DIEDERLE, PhD student, works in the Centro de Investigaciones Científicas y Transferencia de Tecnología a la Producción (CICyTTP-CONICET). His subject of study are the South American fossils snake birds (Suliformes: Anhingidae). He focuses on the systematics, phylogenetic and paleobiological aspects of this group of birds (under supervision of C. Acosta

Hospitaleche and J. Noriega) and is interested in Neogene and Quaternary birds from South America.

CLAUDIA TAMBUSSI keeps working on Cenozoic birds of South America and Antarctica, but from a different geographic location and a new research center (CICTERRA). She now lives in Cordoba, in central Argentina. The main results of her nearly 30 years of research are gathered in the book "South American and Antarctic continental Cenozoic birds: paleobiogeographic affinities and Disparities". During the last two years she has been devoted to study of the brain and sense organs of various birds. In the 2012 fieldwork in Antarctica, she found a magnificent penguin skull whose endocast is studying now with Federico Degrange and Daniel Kspeka. With her team, she is also studying brains of extant parrots and birds of prey. With Federico she is describing a new species of terror bird that also includes study of its brain and sensory capabilities. Her new email address is tambussi.claudia@conicet.gov.ar

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2011): A new Patagonian penguin skull: taxonomic value of cranial characters. − Ameghiniana, 48: 605-620.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2012): A new patagonian penguin skull from the Early Miocene: taxonomic and paleobiological value. XXVI JAPV. Buenos Aires, 21 al 23 de mayo de 2012. − Ameghinana, 49 (4) Suplemento Resúmenes, 64R.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2013): *Palaeeudyptes klekowskii* Myrcha, Tatur y del Valle, 1990: descripción e importancia del más completo esqueleto de pingüino del Eoceno superior de Antártida. − 27° Jornadas Argentinas de Paleontología de Vertebrados. La Rioja, Argentina. Ameghiniana, in press.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & CIONE, A.L. (2012): The most recent record of †*Palaeospheniscus bergi* Moreno & Mercerat 1891 (Aves, Spheniscidae) from the Middle Miocene, northeastern Patagonia. − Neues Jahrbuch für Geologie und Paläontologie. Abh. 266 (2): 143-148.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & DI CARLO, U. (2012): Una singular escápula de pingüino (Aves; Sphenisciformes) del Eoceno de Antártida: reconstrucción muscular e implicancias funcionales. Rivista Italiana di Paleontologia e Stratigrafia, 118 (3): 493-501.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., DI CARLO, U. & REGUERO, M. (2012): Functional implications of a singular penguin scapula (Aves, Sphenisciformes) from the Eocene of Antarctica. − 5th. SCAR. Open Science Conference CD-ROM. Abstract number X, 1 pp. Portland, Oregon; Estados Unidos.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & GRIFFIN, M. (accepted): Middle Cenozoic penguin remains from the Patagonian Cordillera. − VIII International Penguin Conference. Bristol, 2nd to 6th of september 2013. Gran Bretaña.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., GRIFFIN, M, ASENCIO, M., CIONE, A. & TAMBUSSI, C. (2013 online first): Middle Cenozoic penguins and shark remains from the Patagonian Cordillera. − Andean Geology.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., PAULINA CARABAJAL, A. & YURY-YAÑEZ, R. (accepted): Comparative brain anatomy of fossil and living *Pygoscelis*. − VIII International Penguin Conference. Bristol, 2nd to 6th of september 2013. Gran Bretaña.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., PEREZ, L., ACOSTA, W. & REGUERO, M. (2012): A traumatic fracture in a giant Eocene penguin from Antarctica. − Antarctic Sciences*:* 1-6.

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

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & SOIBELZON, L. (2012): The southernmost Miocene penguin (Aves, Spheniscidae) from Patagonia, Argentina South America. − Neues Jahrbuch für Geologie und Paläontologie Abh. 264: 89-93.

AGNOLIN, F.L. & VARRICCHIO, D. (2012): Systematic reinterpretation of *Piksi barbarulna* Varricchion, 2002 from the Two Medicine Formation (Upper Cretaceous) of Western USA (Montana) as a pterosaur rather than a bird. − Geodiversitas, 34: 883-894.

AGNOLIN, F.L. & NOVAS, F.E. (2013): Avian ancestors: a review of the phylogenetic relationships of the theropods Unenlagiidae, Microraptoria, *Anchiornis*, and Scansoriopterygidae. SpringerBriefs in Earth System Sciences. Springer Verlag, New York-London, 99 pp.

AGNOLIN, F.L. (2013): La posición sistemática de *Hermosiornis* (Aves, Phororhacoidea) y sus implicancias filogenéticas. − Revista del Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia", 15: 39-60.

BONA, P., DEGRANGE, F.J. & FERNANDEZ, M.S. (2013): Skull anatomy of the bizarre crocodylian *Mourasuchus nativus* (Alligatoridae, Caimaninae). − The Anatomical Record, 296: 227-239.

CANDELA, A.M., BONINI, R. & NORIEGA, J.I. (2012): First continental vertebrates from the marine Paraná Formation (Late Miocene, Mesopotamia, Argentina): Chronology, biogeography, and palaeonvironments. – Geobios, 45 (6): 515-526.

CENIZO, M.M. (in press): Review of the putative Phorusrhacidae from the Cretaceous and Paleogene of Antarctica: new records of ratites and pelagornithid birds. − Polish Polar Research, 3.

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CENIZO, M.M., Tassara, D.A., Tonii, E.P., Dondas, A. & Scaglia, F. (2012): Loros andino-patagónicos (Enicognathus spp., Psittacidae, Aves) en el Pleistoceno de la región pampeana. Implicancias paleoclimáticas y paleoecológicas preliminares. − XXVI Jornadas Argentinas de Paleontología de Vertebrados, Universidad Maimónides, Buenos Aires.

CENIZO, M.M., TAMBUSSI, C.P. & MONTALVO, C.I. (2012): Upper Miocene continental birds from the Cerro Azul Formation in Pampean Region (South-Central Argentina). − Alcheringa, 36: 47-68.

DIEDERLE, J., NORIEGA, J. & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2012): Nuevos materiales de *Macranhinga paranensis* Noriega (Aves: Pelecaniformes: Anhingidae) del Mioceno de la provincia de Entre Ríos, Argentina. − Revista Brasileira de Paleontologia, 15: 203-210.

DEGRANGE, F.J., NORIEGA, J.I. & ARETA, J.I. (2012): Diversity and paleobiology of the santacrucian birds. − In VIZCAÍNO, S.F. KAY, R.F. & BARGO, M.S. (eds.): Early Miocene Paleobiology in Patagonia: high-latitude paleocommunities of the Santa Cruz Formation. Cambridge University Press: 138-155.

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

HAIDR, N. & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2012): Feeding habits of Antarctic Eocene penguins from a morphofunctional perspective. − Neues Jahrbuch für Geologie und Paläontologie, 263 (2): 125-131.

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HAIDR, N., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. & CIONE, A. (2012): El registro más moderno de †*Palaeospheniscus bergi* Moreno y Mercerat, 1891 (Aves, Spheniscidae), del Mioceno Medio de la Formación Puerto Madryn, Patagonia, Argentina. − XIV Congreso de Ciencias Morfológicas. La Plata, 19 y 20 de septiembre de 2012.

IBAÑEZ M.B. AND TAMBUSSI C.P. (2012): Foot-propelled aquatic birds: pelvic morphology and locomotor performance. − Italian Journal of Zoology 79: 356-362.

MOSTO, M.C. & TAMBUSSI, C.P. (2013): Qualitative and quantitative analysis of talons of diurnal bird of prey. −Anatomia, Histologia, Embryologia. doi: 10.1111/ahe.12041.

NOVAS, F.E., AGNOLIN, F.L., EZCURRA, M.D., CANALE, J.I., & PORFIRI, J.D. (2013): Evolution of the carnivorous dinosaurs during the Cretaceous: The evidence from Patagonia. − Cretaceous Research, http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cretres.2013.04.001.

PICASSO, M.B.J, TAMBUSSI, C.P., MOSTO, M.C. & DEGRANGE, F.J. (2012): Crecimiento de la masa muscular del miembro posterior del Ñandu Grande (Rhea americana) durante la vida postnatal. − Revista Brasileira de Ornitologia 20 (1):1-7.

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REGUERO, M.A., TAMBUSSI, C.P., CORIA, R. & MARENSSI, S. (2013): Late Cretaceous dinosaurs from the James Ross Basin, West Antarctica. Antarctic Palaeoenvironmental Evolution. −In: Hambrey, M. J., Barker, P. F., Barrett, P. J., Bowman, V., Davies, B., Smellie, J. L. & Tranter, M. (eds) Antarctic Palaeoenvironments and Earth-Surface Processes. Geological Society, London, Special Publications, 381. doi:10.1144/SP381.20

TAMBUSSI, C.P. & DEGRANGE, F.J. (2013): South American and Antarctic continental Cenozoic birds: paleobiogeographic affinities and disparities. Springer Briefs In Earth System Sciences, South America and the Southern Hemisphere, 113 pp.

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VALENZUELA-TORO, A., SOTO-ACUÑA, S., YURY-YÁÑEZ, R. E., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., & SUÁREZ, M.E. (2012): Una nueva localidad con vertebrados marinos del Neógeno de la Formación Bahía Inglesa en Bahía Salado, Atacama, Norte de Chile. − III Simposio Paleontología en Chile. Punta Arenas, 11 al 13 de octubre de 2012.

YURY-YÁÑEZ, R., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., SUÁREZ, M., GUTSTEIN, C. & RUBILAR. ROGERS, D. (2012): Pingüinos juveniles (Sphenisciformes, *Pygoscelis grandis* Walsh y Suárez, 2006) del Plioceno de la Formación Bahía Inglesa, desierto de Atacama, norte de Chile. − XXVI JAPV. Buenos Aires, 21 al 23 de mayo de 2012. Ameghiniana, 49: 68-69R.

YURY-YÁÑEZ, R., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., VALENZUELA-TORO, A. & SOTO-ACUÑA, S. (accepted): First record of *Spheniscus muizoni* in Bahía Inglesa Formation, Atacama dessert, northern Chile. − VIII International Penguin Conference. Bristol, 2nd to 6th of september 2013. Gran Bretaña.

AUSTRALIA

WALTER BOLES has just commenced studying some grebe fossils from the Late Oligocene of central Australia. He is in the latter stages of compiling a short chapter on the history of Australian avian palaeontology for the third volume of 'Contributions to the History of Australasian Ornithology'.

MIYESS MITRI (Flinders University, South Australia), supervised by Dr. Gavin Prideaux and Dr. Trevor Worthy is studying the New Caledonian giant fowl Sylviornis. He will describe the post-cranial skeleton and produce a skeletal reconstruction with which to examine the question 'was *Sylviornis* a mound-builder, as are many megapodes? Through the study of the anatomy of the pelvic limb he will assess whether it had specialisations for digging/building mounds such as exhibited by *Megapodius*. Secondly, a morphological phylogenetic analysis be used to assess its relationships within Galliformes.

JACQUELINE NGUYEN is in the final stages of her PhD studies on the Riversleigh passerines at the University of New South Wales and the Australian Museum. She has identified Oligo-Miocene fossils that represent groups within the basal oscine and Corvoidea radiations, several of which have not yet been reported in the Riversleigh avifauna. These fossils fill the gaps in the Australian record that were revealed by Walter Boles' earlier work on fossil passerines. Jacqueline is finalising a manuscript on new Oligo-Miocene logrunner material from Riversleigh, and has also collaborated with Per Ericson and colleagues on a manuscript on molecular dating of the passerine tree.

ELEN SHUTE (Flinders University, Adelaide) is in the second year of her PhD research on the Early and Middle Pleistocene bird assemblage from Thylacoleo Caves, Nullarbor Plain, southern Australia. Research is focusing on non-passerines, and includes the description of several new species, and the palaeoecological and biogeographical interpretation of the avifauna. More bird fossils were recovered from the site during recent fieldwork on the Nullarbor, and the current challenge is to identify as much of the material as possible.

TREVOR WORTHY moved from the University of Adelaide to Flinders University in South Australia in

January where he joined a dynamic palaeontology group led by Gavin Prideaux. With about 15 folk in this team, and those with avian interest including PhD candidate Elen Shute and honours student Miyess Mitri, Flinders University is set to become a major palaeo hub in Australia. Trevor Worthy is investigating the taxonomy, relationships and biology of dromornithids in the wider context of fowl, especially in, but not limited to, Oceania and Australasia. Parallel investigations into the Neogene taxa of Australia and research into the Early Miocene St Bathans Fauna from New Zealand, investigations into Quaternary faunas from New Caledonia and Vanuatu, and continued collaborations concerning the Quaternary New Zealand taxa make for a full schedule.

Highlights this year have been fieldwork excursions to the late Miocene site of Alcoota in the Northern Territory where extracting giant bones of *Dromornis stirtoni* occupied Trevor for an enjoyable fortnight. This site is extraordinary for its abundance of bones but also for the fragility of bones.

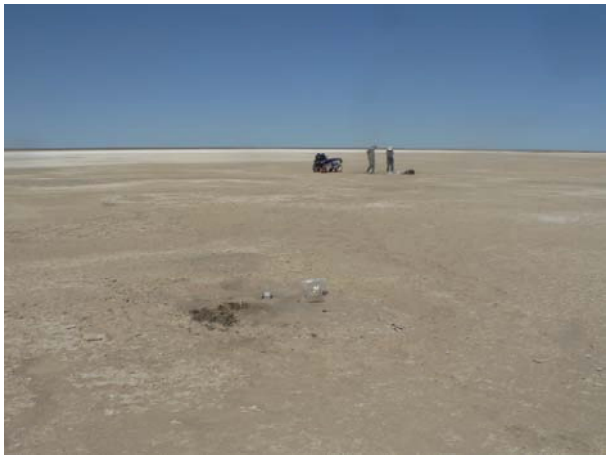
Dromornis tibiotarsi with diprotodondid mandibles (*Plasiodon*).

Secondly, Trevor had a great week on a recce trip to Lake Callabonna, South Australia, type locality of *Genyornis newtoni* and there they found fossils very abundant. This large lake (40 by 25 km), is usually dry and salt encrusted and lies between -2 and 3m asl. Being the middle of our winter it temperatures were mild with a bit of ice in the morning and barely getting over 25C by midday, nice compared to temperatures >40C normal for much of the year. In 3 days they discovered no fewer than 65 *Diprotodon* skeletons but significantly also 3 of *Genyornis* in a small part of the lake. Their mission was to plan an expedition for next year to collect *Genyornis*, and now they know where some are and doubtless there will be many more.

BROOK, B.W., BRADSHAW, C.J.A., COOPER, A., JOHNSON, C.N., WORTHY, T.H., BIRD, M., GILLESPIE, R., & ROBERTS, R.G. (2013): Letter - Lack of chronological support for stepwise pre-human extinctions of Australian megafauna. − Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences U. S. A., 110(36): E3368.

CHAMBERS, G.K. & WORTHY T.H.. (in press): Our evolving view of the kakapo and its allies. − Notornis.

Team members Rod Wells, and Trevor Worthy prospecting for skeletons.



One of the smaller sub-basins of Lake Callabonna that was extraordinarily rich in skeletons. About 16 *Diprotodon*, 1 kangaroo and 3 *Genyornis* skeletons outcrop in the foreground of this image.

COLLINS, C.J., RAWLENCE, N.J., WORTHY, T.H., SCOFIELD, R.P., TENNYSON, A.J.D., SMITH, I., KNAPP, M. & WATERS, J.M. (in press): Pre-human New Zealand sea lion (*Phocarctos hookeri*) rookeries on mainland New Zealand. − Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand. [has extensive list of associated fossil avifaunas from key Holocene sites].

NGUYEN, J.M.T., WORTHY, T.H., BOLES, W.E., HAND, S.J. & ARCHER, M. (in press): A new cracticid (Passeriformes: Cracticidae) from the Early Miocene of Australia. − Emu.

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WORTHY, T.H., WORTHY, J.P., TENNYSON, A.J.D., SALISBURY, S.W., HAND, S.J., & SCOFIELD, R.P. (2013, in press): Miocene fossils show that kiwi (*Apteryx*, Apterygidae) are not phyletic dwarves. Proceedings volume of the 8th International Meeting of the Society of Avian Palaeontology and Evolution at the Natural History Museum of Vienna. − Vienna (Natural History Museum Vienna).

WORTHY, T.H., ANDERSON, A. & SAND, C. (IN press): An extinct Austral snipe Aves: *Coenocorypha* from New Caledonia. − Emu.

WORTHY, T.H., WORTHY, J.P., TENNYSON, A.J.D. & SCOFIELD, R.P. (IN press): A botaurine heron (Aves: Ardeidae) from the Early Miocene of New Zealand. − Paleontological Journal.

AUSTRIA

URSULA GÖHLICH (Vienna) is busy since one year with preparing the proceedings volume. Official submission deadline was 30th September 2012; however the last articles have been submitted end of 2012. The review and revision procedure took until springtime 2013. Currently, Ursula and her co-editor A. Kroh (also NHMW) are editing the single articles and have started already sending out the proofs. If all works well the volume should be sent to the printer beginning November 2013 and thus is scheduled for publication end of 2013. In January 2013 Ursula received the "venia legendi" at the University of Munich, which makes her an Associate Professor for Paleontology at the Department of Geo- and Earth Sciences in Munich. In August (5th-10th), Ursula acted as a host and co-organiser together with Jürgen Kriwet and Cathrin Schwarz (both University of Vienna) for the "6th International Meeting on Mesozoic Fishes" at the Natural History Museum Vienna. Scientifically, Ursula was and still is dealing this year with three projects on different Miocene proboscidean taxa and is just finishing a manuscript on a Sarmatian avifauna from the Austrian locality Gratkorn.

DAXNER-HÖCK, G., BADAMGARAV, D., ERBAJEVA, M. & GÖHLICH, U.B. (2013): 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. – p. 477-494, New York, Chichester (Columbia University Press).

GÖHLICH, U.B. & TISCHLINGER H. (2012): *Juravenator* - der kleine Raubsaurier aus Süddeutschland. – In: MARTIN, T., VON KOENIGSWALD, W., RADTKE, G. & RUST, J. (eds): Paläontologie - 100 Jahre Paläontologische Gesellschaft. - p. 126, München (Friedrich Pfeil Verlag).

GÖHLICH, U.B., KROH, A. & HARZHAUSER, M.(2012): Gestatten, wir sind die Neuen: Horndinosaurier *Ceratops* und Terrorvogel *Paraphysornis*. – Universum, 12, Das Naturhistorische: 101.

ZACHOS, F.E., APOLLONIO, M., BÄRMANN E.V., FESTA-BIANCHET, M., GÖHLICH, U.B., HABEL, J.C., HARING, E., KRUCKENHAUSER L., LOVARI S., MCDEVITT, A.D., PERTOLDI, C., RÖSSNER, G.E., SÁNCHEZ-VILLAGRA M.R., SCANDURA, M. & SUCHENTRUNK, F. (2013): Species inflation and taxonomic artefacts - A critical comment on recent trends in mammalian classification. – Mammalian Biology, 78: 1-6.

BULGARIA

ZLATOZAR BOEV participated at the project "Urgent measures for conservation of the Egyptian Vulture (Neophron percnopterus) in Bulgaria and Greece" (LIFE+ Program of the European Commission). He further was scientific advisor of tree phD students, including Nedko Nedyalkov ("Diet of breeding Saker Falcons (*Falco cherrug*) in relation to prey availability"), Dimitar Plachiyski ("Distribution of Eurasian Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus* Linnaeus, 1758) in Bulgaria depending on the landscape-ecological habitat characteristics").

BOEV, Z. (2012): Last refuges of the ancient peafowl in Europe. − Priroda, BAS, Sofia, 2: 54-59. [in Bulgarian].

BOEV, Z. (2013): Avian remains from the Late Neolithic settlement of Sarnevo (Stara Zagora Region, SC Bulgaria). − Acta zoologica bulgarica, 65 (2): 259-262.

BOEV, Z. (2013): Animal paleopathology. − Priroda, BAS, Sofia, 1: 70-76. [in Bulgarian].

BOEV, Z. (2013): Miocene hornbills and the "eruption" of Pirin Mnt. – Priroda, BAS, Sofia, 2: 70-77. [in Bulgarian].

BOEV, Z. (2013): The Bulgarian Българският "paleopark" near Varshets. − Priroda, BAS, Sofia, 3: 28-33. [in Bulgarian].

FRANCE

DELPHINE ANGST is going on with her PhD on the palaeobiology of Early Tertiary giant birds, especially *Gastornis,* at University Claude Bernard - Lyon 1. Her geochemical investigations about the diet of *Gastornis*,

conducted under the supervision of Christophe Lécuyer and Romain Amiot, are bearing fruit and should soon result in publications. These conclusions are strengthened by a 3D-functional study on the mandible of *Gastornis*, under the supervision of Anick Abourachd and Antony Herrel (MHNH). Together with Eric Buffetaut, Delphine has continued her search for remains of European phorusrhacids in museum collections. It now appears that material referred to both *Diatryma cotei* from France and *Eleutherornis helveticus* from Switzerland belongs to a single taxon of Middle Eocene phorusrhacid. Another aspect of Delphine's work is a new study of the avian eggshell fragments found in great abundance at some early Tertiary localities in southern France. After two field campaigns, with help from a number of local geologists and palaeontologists, it is now possible to provide new estimates of the size and diversity of those eggs and to propose an identification for the birds which laid them.

ERIC BUFFETAUT is going on with his work on a new enantornithine from the Late Cretaceous of China, with several colleagues, including Jingmai O'Connor. The well-preserved braincase of the specimen has been scanned, with excellent results, at the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility in Grenoble as part of the Masters project of Vincent Beyrand (under the supervision of Paul Tafforeau and Vincent Fernandez). Eric is also working on new specimens of the giant Late Cretaceous bird *Gargantuavis*, recently discovered in Provence. In addition, he is describing unpublished material of large ground birds from South America in the Paris Museum. Some of the material, including phorusrhacids and a ratite, is from Argentina and was collected more than a century ago. Other specimens were collected in Bolivia in the 1960s and provide some interesting evidence about Oligocene phorusrhacids. A trip to Brazil gave Eric the opportunity to visit the Natural History Museum in Taubaté, home of *Paraphysornis*, and to discuss phorusrhacids with Herculano Alvarenga. Joint work by Eric and Delphine also resulted in a presentation on the stratigraphic distribution of large flightless birds in the Paleogene of Europe at the First International Congress on Stratigraphy in Lisbon in July 2013.

Since the last SAPE Newsletter CÉCILE MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ has worked on numerous fossil bird remains but no paper has been published so far. Only one, on *Dynamopterus*, is going to be published online in September 2013, and will be printed on paper in October 2013. Cécile has worked on a large number of bird remains coming from settlements of fugitive slaves, in almost inaccessible places in the mountains of Réunion Island. These slaves have eaten mainly juvenile Barau's Petrels (*Pterodroma baraui*), taken from the burrows where the birds nested. She has worked on a complete humerus of the Short-tailed Albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*) from a Middle Pleistocene cave on the Atlantic shore of Morocco. Cécile has also worked on the revision of the genus and species *Euronyctibius kurochkini*, from the Eocene of Quercy, and on a small avifauna from the Early Oligocene new locality of Valbro, in Quercy. Together with Vanesa De Pietri and other research workers, Cécile has participated to a paper on the fossil avifauna of Switzerland, for a volume dedicated to the late Prof. Jean-Pierre Berger. Finally Cécile spends a part of her time doing reviews of paleornithological papers, submitted to different journals. She is happy to do it since it makes it possible for her to stay informed of many new discoveries.

BUFFETAUT, E. (2013): Phororhacoidea or Phorusrhacoidea? A note on the nomenclature of the "terror birds". – Annales de Paléontologie, 99: 157-161.

BUFFETAUT, E. & ANGST, D. (2013): New evidence of a giant bird from the Late Cretaceous of France. – Geological Magazine, 150: 173-176.

MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C. (in press): *Idiornis* OBERHOLSER, 1899 (Aves, Gruiformes, Cariamae, Idiornithidae): a junior synonym of *Dynamopterus* MILNE-EDWARDS, 1892 (Paleogene, Phosphorites du Quercy, France). – N. Jb. Geol. Paläont. Abh. [October 2013].

GERMANY

VANESA DE PIETRI is continuing her research on the fossil birds of the Allier region in France (Saint-Gérand-le-Puy) at the Senckenberg Research Institute in collaboration with Gerald Mayr and other researchers.

ALBRECHT MANEGOLD still holds a fixed-term position at the Senckenberg Museum, Section of Ornithology, and continues studying birds form the Early Pliocene of Langebaanweg, South Africa. He is also interested in reconstructing the phylogeny and evolution of extant bird taxa such as woodpeckers and relatives.

GERALD MAYR, together with Jorge Noriega, has finished the description of a seriema skeleton from the Santa Cruz Formation, and, together with Jim Goedert, that of a partial pelagornithid skeleton from the late Oligocene of Oregon. In cooperation with Paul Scofield, he currently works on bird remains from the Paleocene of New Zealand, and various other fossils are awaiting description.

DE PIETRI, V.L. (2013): Interrelationships of the Threskiornithidae and the phylogenetic position of the Miocene ibis "Plegadis" paganus from the Saint-Gérand-le-Puy area in central France. – Ibis 155: 544–560.

DE PIETRI, V.L., GÜNTERT, M. & MAYR, G. (in press): A *Haematopus*-like skull and other remains of Charadrii (Aves, Charadriiformes) from the early Miocene of Saint-Gérand-le-Puy (Allier, France). – In: GÖHLICH, U.B. & KROH, A. (eds.): Proceedings volume of the 8th International Meeting of the Society of Avian Palaeontology and Evolution. Vienna (Natural History Museum Vienna).

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

DE PIETRI, V.L. & MAYR, G. (2012): An assessment of the diversity of early Miocene Scolopaci (Aves, Charadriiformes) from Saint-Gérand-le-Puy (Allier, France). – Palaeontology, 55: 1177-1197.

FJELDSÅ, J., MAYR, G., JØNSSON, K.A. & IRESTEDT, M. (2013): On the true identity of Bluntschli's Vanga *Hypositta perdita* Peters, 1996, a presumed extinct species of Vangidae. – Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club 133 (1): 72-75.

MANEGOLD, A. (2013): Two new parrot species (Psittaciformes) from the early Pliocene of

Langebaanweg (South Africa) and their paleoecological implications. – Ibis, 155: 127–139.
MANEGOLD, A. & TÖPFER, T. (2013): The systematic position of *Hemicircus* (Picidae) and the evolution of adaptations for drilling and climbing up in true woodpeckers. – Journal of Zoological Systematics and Evolutionary Research, 51: 72-82.
MANEGOLD, A., LOUCHART, A., CARRIER, J. & ELZANOWSKI, A. (in press): The early Pliocene avifauna of Langebaanweg (South Africa): a review and update. – In: GÖHLICH U.B. & A. KROH (eds.) Proceedings of the 8th International meeting of the Society of Avian Palaeontology and Evolution. – Vienna (Natural History Museum Vienna).
MAYR, G. (2013): Parvigruidae (Aves, core-Gruiformes) from the early Oligocene of Belgium. – Palaeobiodiversity and Palaeoenvironments, 93 (1): 77-89.
MAYR, G. (2013): The age of the crown group of passerine birds and its evolutionary significance - molecular calibrations versus the fossil record. – Systematics and Biodiversity, 11 (1): 1-6.
MAYR, G. (2013): Late Oligocene mousebird converges on parrots in skull morphology. – Ibis, 155 (2): 384-396.
MAYR, G. (2013): A derived pterygoid/palatine complex indicates sister group relationship between the Cuckoo Finch, *Anomalospiza imberbis*, and the Grosbeak Weaver, *Amblyospiza albifrons*. – Journal of Ornithology, 154 (3): 879-882.
MAYR, G. (in press): The Eocene *Juncitarsus* - its phylogenetic position and significance for the evolution and higher-level affinities of flamingos and grebes. – Comptes Rendus Palevol.
MAYR, G. & DE PIETRI, V.L. (2013): A goose-sized anseriform bird from the late Oligocene of France: the youngest record and largest species of Romainvilliinae. – Paläontologische Zeitschrift, 87: 423-430.
MAYR, G., GOEDERT, J.L. & MCLEOD, S.A. (2013): Partial skeleton of a bony-toothed bird from the late Oligocene/early Miocene of Oregon (USA) and the systematics of Neogene Pelagornithidae. – Journal of Paleontology, 87 (5): 922-929.
MAYR, G. & MANEGOLD, A. (2013): Can ovarian follicles fossilize? – Nature, 499 (7457): E1. http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/nature12367.
MAYR, G. & SMITH, T. (2012): Phylogenetic affinities and taxonomy of the Oligocene Diomedeoididae, and the basal divergences amongst extant procellariiform birds. – Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society, 166: 854-875.
MAYR, G., YANG, J., DE BAST, E., LI, C.-S. & SMITH, T. (2013): A *Strigogyps*-like bird from the middle Paleocene of China with an unusual grasping foot. – Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology, 33 (4): 895-901.
SMITH, N.A. & MAYR, G. (2013): Earliest northeastern Atlantic Ocean basin record of an auk (Charadriiformes, Pan-Alcidae): fossil remains from the Miocene of Germany. – Journal of Ornithology, 154 (3): 775-782.
WANG, M., MAYR, G., ZHANG, J. & ZHOU, Z. (2012): Two new skeletons of the enigmatic, rail-like avian taxon *Songzia* Hou, 1990 (Songziidae) from the early Eocene of China. – Alcheringa, 36: 487-499.

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HUNGARY

In January, 2013 EUGEN (JENŐ) KESSLER published a handbook on the fossil and subfossil avifauna of the Carpathian Basin. The manual entitled "The Palaeontological Handbook of the Avifauna from the Carpathian Basin" is written in Hungarian. The 458 pages (A4) book contains seven chapters: Historical review, Methods, The Mesozoic Avifauna of the Carpathian Basin and its Hypothetic Evolution, The Tertiary Avifauna, The Quaternary Avifauna, Taxonomy, Results and Conclusions. It also includes four maps, three time charts, 18 tables on metrical data, a species list, an index and 48 tables of images. The references consist of 542 items. The book contains all the data available from 1850 to 2011 that regards fossil and subfossil birds from 145 Million years up to the Middle Ages. They come from 338 sites in the Carpathian Basin representing about 330,000 m^2. The covered counties are Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Serbia and Slovakia. There are no data from Slovenia and Ukraine. The species list includes 843 taxa, among which 259 are extinct. 206 of these have been described from the Carpathian Basin. Although written in Hungarian, the handbook can be used as a data base even for those who are not familiar with this language. The English translation is due, while the name of the publisher is still pending. Another work, Neogene songbirds (Aves, Passeriformes) faunae from Hungary, of Eugen has been published in English in June. It includes the fossil remains of song birds from three Neogene sites (Polgárdi - Late Miocene, MN 13; Csarnóta 2 and Beremend 26 - Pliocene, MN 15-16) in Hungary. There are 98 new species described and illustrated in 86 pages and 26 tables of images. Eugen currently works on the identification key of Central European Passeriforms that shall help ornithologists and palaeontologists in the identification of modern and fossil bones to genus level.

KESSLER, J. (2013): A Kárpát-medence madárvilágának őslénytani kézikönyve. – Ed. Könyvmühely, Miskolc. Hungary. pp. 506.
KESSLER, E. (2013): Neogene songbirds (Aves, Passeriformes) faunae from Hungary. – Hantkeniana, 8: 37-149.

ITALY

MARCO PAVIA in the last year he tried to gain some experience in Miocene birds visiting the Milne-Edwards collections in Paris and working on the Miocene birds of Italy, in particular (together with G. Mayr) on two specimens already described by Portis: *Chenornis graculoides* and *Anas lignitifila* and the fossil birds from two new localities in Piemonte. He is also working on the Owls from Langenbaanweg and on others fossil bird associations from Miocene and Plio-Pleistocene, mainly from Italy but also from Eritrea. In addition he was busy with the increase of the skeleton collection of the Torino

University with the preparation of many new skeletons and some exchanges.

BEDETTI, C. & PAVIA, M., (2013): Early Pleistocene birds from Pirro Nord (Puglia, southern Italy). – Palaeontographica Abteilung A, 298: 31-53.

BERTOK, C., MASINI, F., DI DONATO, V., MARTIRE, L., PAVIA, M., ZUNINO, M. & PAVIA, G. (2013): Stratigraphic framework of the type-locality of Pirro Nord mamma Faunal Unit (Late Villafranchian, Apricena, southern Italy). – Palaeontographica Abteilung A, 298: 5-17.

COLOMBERO, S., PAVIA, M. & ROOK, L. (2012): *Pannonictis nestii* (Galictinae, Mustelidae), a new element in the vertebrate association of the human site of Pirro Nord (Italy, Early Pleistocene). – Geodiversitas, 34 (3): 665-681.

COLOMBERO, S., BONELLI, E., KOTSAKIS, T., PAVIA, G., PAVIA, M. & CARNEVALE, G. (2013): Late Messinian rodents from Verduno (Piedmont, NW Italy): Biochronological, palaeoecological and palaeobiogeographical implications. – Geobios, 46: 111-125.

MASINI, F., RINALDI, P.M., SAVORELLI, A. & PAVIA, M. (2013): A new small mammal assemblage from the M013 Terre Rosse fissure filling (Gargano, South-Eastern Italy). – Geobios, 46: 49-61.

PAVIA, M., BOANO, G., SILVANO, F. & KARAMA, M. (2012): New bird records from southwestern Burkina Faso. – Malimbus, 34 (1): 57-81.

PAVIA, M. (2013): The Anatidae and Scolopacidae (Aves: Anseriformes, Charadriiformes) from the late Neogene of Gargano, Italy. – Geobios, 46: 43-48.

PAVIA, M. & BEDETTI, C. (2013): The presence of Harlequin duck *Histrionicus histrionicus* (Linnaeus 1758) in the Middle Pleistocene of Italy. – Journal of Ornithology, 154: 875-878.

ROOK, L., GHINASSI, M., CARNEVALE, G., DELFINO, M., PAVIA, M., BONDIOLI, L., CANDILLO, F., COPPA, A., MARTINEZ-NAVARRO, B., MEDIN, T., PAPINI, M., ZANOLLI, C. & LIBSEKAL, Y. (2013): Stratigraphic context and paleoenvironmental significance of minor taxa (Pisces, Reptilia, Aves, Rodentia) from the late Early Pleistocene paleoanthropological site of Buia (Eritrea). – Journal of Human Evolution, 64: 83-92.

ROOK, L., CROITOR, R., DELFINO, M., FERRETTI, M.P., GALLAI, G. & PAVIA, M. (2013): The Upper Valdarno Plio-Pleistocene vertebrate record: an historical overview, with notes on palaeobiology and stratigraphic significance of some important taxa. – Italian Journal of Geoscience, 132 (1): 104-125.

VILLIER, B., VAN DEN HOEK OSTENDE, L.W., DE VOS, J. & PAVIA, M. (2013): New discoveries on the giant hedgehog *Deinogalerix* from the Miocene of Gargano (Apulia, Italy). – Geobios, 46: 63-75.

NETHERLANDS

GUSSEKLOO, S.W.S. & CUBO, J. (2013): Flightlessness affects cranial morphology in birds. – Zoology, 116: 75-84.

LAURIN, M., GUSSEKLOO, S.W.S., MARJANOVIC, D. et al. (2012): Testing gradual and speciational models of evolution in extant taxa: the example of ratites – Journal of Evolutionary Biology, 25: 293-303.

NEW ZEALAND

PAUL SCOFIELD continues to work on the Miocene St Bathans Fauna with Trevor Worthy and Alan Tennyson. His other major paleo-projects include the identification and taphonomic characterising of a large Holocene pitfall deposit in the central South Island of New Zealand; ancient DNA and morphological phylogenetics of New Zealand's Recent avifaunal extinctions and descriptions of birds from the Paleocene greensands of North Canterbury.

ALAN TENNYSON (Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa) is continuing working on local Holocene faunas, particularly on the past avifauna of the Chatham Islands with Jamie Wood (Landcare Research), Nic Rawlence (Otago University) and Paul Scofield (Canterbury Museum). He is also continuing collaborative work with Paul and Trevor Worthy (Flinders University, Adelaide) on the Miocene fauna of St Bathans in Otago. Taxonomic issues and population surveys of seabirds are another focus. He wrote several texts for an exciting new website - an encyclopaedia of New Zealand birds (http://www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz), which includes texts and images for all the extinct taxa, including fossils.

JAMIE WOOD is currently working on morphology and ancient DNA of several species of late Holocene extinct birds from the Chatham Island archipelago with Paul Scofield (Canterbury Museum), Alan Tennyson (Te Papa) and colleagues at the Australian Centre for Ancient DNA. Work on examining moa diets through coprolite analysis is ongoing. He has been working with a student (Andrew Wheeler at Auckland University) using new radiocarbon Bayesian methods to explore the dynamics of moa extinction.

ALLENTOFT, M.E., COLLINS, M.J., HARKER, D., HAILE, J. OSKAM, C.L. CAMPOS, P.F. GILBERT, M.T.P., WILLERSLEV, E. ZHANG, G, SCOFIELD R.P., HOLDAWAY, R.N. & BUNCE M. (2012): The Half-life of DNA in Bone: measuring Decay Kinetics in 158 dated fossils. – Proceedings of the Royal Society B, 279(1748): 4724-4733.

JIGUET, F., CAPAINOLO, P. & TENNYSON, A. (2012): Taxonomy of the Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus* Lichtenstein revisited with sex-separated analyses of biometrics and wing tip patterns. – Zoological Studies, 51(6): 881-892.

MITCHELL, K.J., WOOD, J.R., SCOFIELD, R.P., LLAMAS, B., COOPER, A. (2013): Ancient mitochondrial genome reveals unsuspected taxonomic affinity of the extinct Chatham duck (*Pachyanas chathamica*) and resolves divergence times for New Zealand and sub-Antarctic brown teals. – Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2013.08.017.

OSKAM, C.L., ALLENTOFT, M.E., WALTER, R., SCOFIELD, R.P., HAILE, J., HOLDAWAY, R.N., BUNCE, M., JACOMB, C. (2012): Ancient DNA analyses of early archaeological sites in New Zealand reveal extreme

exploitation of moa (Aves: Dinornithiformes) at all life stages. – Quaternary Science Reviews, 52: 41-48.

PALMA, R.L., TENNYSON, A.J.D., GASKIN, C.P. & JARAMILLO, A. (2012): A correction to Palma *et. al*. (2012) on the nomenclature of the Fuegian storm-petrel, *Oceanites oceanicus chilensis*. – Notornis, 59: 187-188.

RAWLENCE, N.J., METCALF, J., WOOD, J.R., WORTHY, T.H., AUSTIN, J.J. & COOPER, A. (2012): The effect of climate and environmental change on the megafaunal moa of New Zealand in the absence of humans. – Quaternary Science Reviews, 50: 141-153.

RAWLENCE, N.J., WOOD, J.R., SCOFIELD, R.P., FRASER, C, TENNYSON, A.D. (2012): Soft tissue specimens from pre-European extinct birds of New Zealand. – Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand, 43: 154-181.

SCOFIELD, R.P. (2012): History of Ornithology at Canterbury Museum. – In: Davis, W.E., Recher, H.F., Boles, W.E. & Jackson, J.A. (eds.): Contributions to the history of Australasian Ornithology Vol 2. – Memoirs of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, 18: 267-325.

SHEPHERD, L.D., WORTHY, T.H., TENNYSON, A.J.D., SCOFIELD, R.P., RAMSTAD, K.M., LAMBERT, D.M. (2012): Ancient DNA analyses reveal contrasting phylogeographic patterns amongst kiwi (*Apteryx* spp.) and a recently extinct lineage of Spotted Kiwi. – PLoS ONE, 7(8): e42384. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0042384.

TENNYSON, A.J.D. & ANDERSON, A. (2012): Bird, reptile and mammal remains from archaeological sites on Rapa Island. – In: ANDERSON, A. & KENNETT, D.J. (eds.): Taking the high ground - the archaeology of Rapa, a fortified island in remote east Polynesia. – Terra Australis, 37: 105-114.

WAUGH, S.M., TENNYSON, A.J.D., TAYLOR, G.A. & WILSON, K.-J. (2013): Population sizes of shearwaters (*Puffinus* spp.) breeding in New Zealand, with recommendations for monitoring. – Tuhinga, 24: 159-204.

WOOD, J.R. (2013): New Zealand, 500 years ago. – In: MACLEOD, N. (ed.): Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia: Extinction. Gale, Farmington Hills, USA. Pp. 595-604.

WOOD, J.R. & WILMSHURST, J.M. (2013, in press): The age of North Island giant moa (*Dinornis novaezealandiae*) bones found on the forest floor in the Ruahine Range. – Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

WOOD, J.R. & WILMSHURST, J.M. (2013): Accumulation rates or percentages? How to quantify *Sporormiella* and other coprophilous fungal spores to detect late Quaternary megafaunal extinctions. – Quaternary Science Reviews, 77: 1-3.

WOOD, J.R., WILMSHURST, J.M., RAWLENCE, N.J., BONNER, K.I., WORTHY, T.H., KINSELLA, J.M. & COOPER, A. (2013): A megafauna's microfauna: gastrointestinal parasites of New Zealand extinct moa (Aves: Dinornithiformes). – PLoS ONE, 8: e57315.

WOOD, J.R. & WILMSHURST, J.M. (2013): Pollen analysis of coprolites reveals dietary details of heavy-footed moa (*Pachyornis elephantopus*) and coastal moa (*Euryapteryx curtus*) from Central Otago. – New Zealand Journal of Ecology, 37: 151-155.

WOOD, J.R., WILMSHURST, J.M., HOLZAPFEL, A.S., WORTHY, T.H. & COOPER, A. (2012): A lost link between a flightless parrot and a parasitic plant and the potential role of coprolites in conservation paleoecology. – Conservation Biology, 26*:* 1091-1099.

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WOOD, J.R., WILMSHURST, J.M., WORTHY, T.H. & COOPER, A. (2012): First coprolite evidence for the diet of little bush moa (*Anomalopteryx didiformis*); an extinct forest ratite from New Zealand. – New Zealand Journal of Ecology, 36*:* 164-170.

POLAND

ANDRZEJ ELZANOWSKI keeps working on extant and fossil ostrich bones, bird remains from the Dominican amber and morphology of the avian atlas (in connection with an Eocene specimen from Seymour Island).

PIOTR JADWISZCZAK continues to work on fossil penguins from both West and East Antarctica. He has just returned from the 8th International Penguin Conference (September 2013; Bristol, UK), which witnessed the largest meeting of active "penguin-biased" palaeontologists so far.

ALLMÄEA, R., MALDREA, L. & TOMEK, T. (2011): The Salme I ship burial: an osteological view of a unique burial in Northern Europe. Interdisciplinaria archaeologica. – Natural Sciences in Archaeology, 2 (2): 109–124.

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JADWISZCZAK, P. (2013): Taxonomic diversity of Eocene Antarctic penguins: a changing picture. – In: HAMBREY M.J., BARKER P.F., BARRETT, P.J., BOWMAN, V., DAVIES, B., SMELLIE, J.L. & TRANTER, M. (eds): Antarctic Palaeoenvironments and Earth-Surface Processes. – Geological Society, London, Special Publications, 381. First published online June 25, 2013, http://dx.doi.org/10.1144/SP381.7.

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penguins from East Antarctica. – Antarctic Science, 25(3): 397-408.
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LÕUGAS, L. & TOMEK, T. (2013): Marginal effect at the coastal area of Tallinn Bay: the marine, terrestrial, and avian fauna as a source of subsistence during the Late Neolithic. – In: Johanson, K. & Tõrv, M. (eds.): Man, his time, artefacts, and places. Collection of articles dedicated to Richard Indreko. (MT, 19.) Tartu, 463-485.
LÕUGAS, L., MALDRE, L., TOMEK, T. & KADAKAS, V. (2012): Archaeozoological evidence from the Padise Monastery. – Arheoloogilised välitööd Eestis, 2011 (Archeological fieldwork in Estonia, 2011): 83-92.

RUSSIA

ZINOVIEV A.V. (2011): Notes on the hindlimb myology and syndesmology of the Mesozoic toothed bird *Hesperornis regalis* (Aves, Hesperornithiformes). – Journal of Systematic Palaeontology, 9(1): 65-84.
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SWEDEN

PER ERICSON continues to work on the higher-level systematics of birds using molecular data. He is currently finishing a manuscript on the age of the passerine radiation using available, relevant fossils as calibration points. He also collaborates with Zhonghe Zhou on Mesozoic birds from China.

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ERICSON, P.G.P. (2012): Evolution of terrestrial birds in three continents: biogeography and parallel radiations. – Journal of Biogeography, 39: 813-824.
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IRESTEDT, M., FABRE, P.-H., BATALHA-FILHO, H., JØNSSON, K.A., CEES S. ROSELAAR, C.S., SANGSTER, G. & ERICSON, P.G.P. (2013): The spatio-temporal colonization and diversification across the Indo-Pacific by a “great speciator” (Aves, *Erythropitta erythrogaster*). – Proceedings of the Royal Society of London Ser. B.
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JØNSSON, K.A., FABRE, P.-H., FRITZ, S.A., ETIENNE, R.S., RICKLEFS, R.E., JØRGENSEN, T.B., FJELDSÅ, J., RAHBEK, C., ERICSON, P.G.P., WOOGG, F., PASQUET, E. & IRESTEDT, M. (2012): Ecological and evolutionary determinants for the adaptive radiation of the Madagascan vangas. – Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 109: 6620-6625.
MOLTESEN, M., IRESTEDT, M., FJELDSÅ, J., ERICSON, P.G.P. & JØNSSON, K.A. (2012): Molecular phylogeny of Chloropseidae and Irenidae - Cryptic species and biogeography. – Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution, 65: 903-914.
OHLSON, J.I., FJELDSÅ, J. & ERICSON, P.G.P. (2013): Molecular phylogeny of the manakins (Aves: Passeriformes: Pipridae), with a new classification and the description of a new genus. – Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution.
OHLSON, J.I., IRESTEDT, M., ERICSON, P.G.P. & FJELDSÅ, J. (2013): Phylogeny and classification of the New World suboscines (Aves, Passeriformes). – Zootaxa, 3613: 1-35.
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ZHANG, R.Y., SONG, G., QU, Y.H., ALSTRÖM, P., RAMOS, R., XING, X.Y., ERICSON, P.G.P., FJELDSÅ, J. WANG, H.T., YANG, X.J., KRISTIN, A., SHESTOPALOV, A.M., CHOE, J.C. & LEI, F.M. (2012): Comparative phylogeography of two widespread magpies: Importance of habitat preference and breeding behavior on genetic structure in China. – Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution, 65: 562-572.
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ZUCCON, D., PRŸS-JONES, R., RASMUSSEN, P.C. & ERICSON, P.G.P. (2012): The phylogenetic relationships and generic limits of finches (Fringillidae). – Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution, 62: 581-596.

UNITED KINGDOM

In August and October 2012, JULIAN PENDER HUME was part of a reconnaissance team visiting Beanka, a remote tsingy limestome reserve in central-west Madagascar. During the survey, Roger Randalana, the reserve manager, discovered a deposit of subfossil remains at the base of a cliff, which included the remains of several extinct giant lemurs that are especially rare at other sites, and a few bird bones. Further test excavations revealed that the deposit was originally a lair of the extinct giant fossa *Cryptoprocta spelaeo*, a cougar-sized viverrid. The bird material included a giant coua *Coua* sp., much larger than the largest coua known today, *Coua gigas*, and equal in size to other giant fossil couas. The roads were extremely rough and to reach the northern end of the Beanka reserve required a day's ride in an iron-wheeled ox cart. A great experience, but I was unable to stand up straight for two days! The journey was worth it however, as a cave containing cave art was discovered, which is unique in Madagascar. Another trip is planned for September 2013. In April/May 2013, Julian and a colleague, Lorna Steel, spent three weeks on Rodrigues Island, Mascarenes, excavating two cave sites. The caves proved incredibly productive, and discoveries included two nearly complete carapaces of extinct tortoises *Cylindraspis* sp., an almost complete, associated Solitaire *Pezophaps solitaria*, and at least one new passerine.

HUME, J.P. (2012): The Dodo: from extinction to the fossil record. – Geology Today, 28(4): 147-151.

HUME, J.P. & STEEL, L. (2013): Fight club: a unique weapon in the wing of the solitaire, *Pezophaps solitaria* (Aves: Columbidae), an extinct flightless bird from Rodrigues, Mascarene Islands. – Biological Journal of the Linnean Society, doi: 10.1111/bij.12087.

UNITED STATES

Idaho

KARI PRASSACK defended her dissertation, "The paleoenvironmental utility of fossil birds from Bed I and Lowermost Bed II (Plio-Pleistocene), Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania " in May 2012, and in November of that year started a new position as Chief Paleontologist/Museum Curator at Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, in Idaho. Hagerman has no shortage of fossil birds, but for now she has shifted focus to the sites Mustelidae, since they are most in need of attention. This also gives her good reason to start feeding birds to carnivores again, continuing with her research on avian taphonomy. Kari continues to publish her dissertation research, with recent contributions to the Journal of Human Evolution 2012 special issue "Fifty years after *Zinjanthropus*: Landscape Paleoanthropology of Plio-Pleistocene Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania".

BLUMENSCHINE, R.J., STANISTREET, I.G., NJAU, J.K., BAMFORD, M.K., MASAO, F.T., STOLLHOFEN, H., ANDREWS, P., FERNANDEZ-JALVO, Y., PRASSACK, K.A., ALBERT, R.M., MCHENRY, L.J., CAMILLI, E.L. & EBERT, J.I. (2012): Environments and activity traces of Oldowan hominins across the FLK Peninsula during *Zinjanthropus* times (1.84 Ma),Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania. – Journal of Human Evolution, 63(2): 364-383.

BLUMENSCHINE, R.J., MASAO, F.T., STOLLHOFEN, H., STANISTREET, I.G., BAMFORD, M.K., ROSA M. ALBERT, R.M., NJAU, J.K. & PRASSACK, K.A. (2012): Landscape distribution of Oldowan stone artifact assemblages across the fault compartments of the eastern Olduvai lake basin during early Lowermost Bed II times. – Journal of Human Evolution, 63(2): 384-394.2012

PRASSACK, K.A. (2011): The effect of weathering on bird bone survivorship in modern and fossil saline-alkaline lake environments. – Paleobiology, 37(4): 633-654.2011

PRASSACK, K.A. (accepted): Landscape distribution and ecology of birds from Lowermost Bed II (Plio-Pleistocene), Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania. – Journal of Human Evolution.

North Carolina

ALAN FEDUCCIA's "Riddle of the Feathered Dragons: Hidden Birds of China" (Yale University Press, 2012) will appear in a paperback edition in spring of 2014.

Los Angeles

LUIS CHIAPPE continues with his focus on the taxonomy, systematics, life history and developmental biology of the Early Cretaceous birds from the Jehol Group of northeastern China (see publication list). His studies are primarily in collaboration with colleagues from the Beijing Natural History Museum, the Dalian Natural History Museum, the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, and the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology in Beijing. Maureen Walsh has traveled a number of times to various cities in China to prepare fossils for Luis' research, take histological samples and to help him document many of these amazing birds. She is currently studying fragmentary avian remains from the Late Cretaceous Bugin Tsav locality of the Gobi Desert. Luis' graduate students, Justin Hall and Diana Pomeroy, continue their studies on flight control across the non-avian dinosaur-bird transition and taxonomy of sapeornithids, respectively. His graduate student, Alyssa Bell defended her PhD (University of Southern California) on the Cretaceous, foot-propelled hesperornithiforms - congratulations, Alyssa! Several papers on the taxonomy and systematics of these amazing birds will be submitted during the next year.

CHIAPPE, L.M. (2012): The Dinosaur Conspiracy. A review of A. Feduccia's Riddle of the Feathered Dragons: Hidden Birds of China. – BioScience, 62 (8): 770-772.

CHINSAMY, A., CHIAPPE, L.M., MARUGAN-LOBON, J., GAO C. & ZHANG, F. 2013. Gender identification of the Mesozoic bird *Confuciusornis sanctus.* – Nature Communications, DOI: 10.1038/ncomms2377.

GAO G., CHIAPPE, L.M., ZHANG, F., POMEROY, D., SHEN, C., CHINSAMY, A. & WALSH, M.O. (2012): A subadult specimen of the Early Cretaceous bird *Sapeornis chaoyangensis* and a taxonomic reassessment of sapeornithids. – Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology, 32 (5): 1103-1112.

MARUGÁN-LOBÓN, J., CHIAPPE, L.M. & FARKE, A.A. (2013): The variability of inner ear orientation in saurischian dinosaurs: testing the use of semicircular canals as a reference system for comparative anatomy. – PeerJ 1:e124; DOI 10.7717/peerj.124

MESEGUER, J., CHIAPPE, L.M., SANZ, J.L., ORTEGA, F., SANZ-ANDRÉS, A., PÉREZ-GRANDE, I. & FRANCHINI, S. 2012. Lift devices in the flight of *Archaeopteryx*. – Spanish Journal of Palaeontology, 27 (2): 125-130.

O'CONNOR, J., CHIAPPE, L.M., CHUONG C., BOTTJER, D. & YOU, H. 2012. Homology and Potential Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms for the Development of Unique Feather Morphologies in Early Birds. – Geosciences, 2: 157-177.

O'CONNOR, J., ZHANG, Y., CHIAPPE, L.M., MENG Q., LI Q. & LIU, D. 2013. A new enantiornithine from the Yixian Formation with the first recognized avian enamel specialization. – Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology, 33 (1): 1-12

ZHANG, Z., CHIAPPE, L. M., HAN G. & CHINSAMY, A. 2013. A large bird from the Early Cretaceous of China: new information on the skull of enantiornithines. – Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology, 33 (5): 1176-1189.

Washington

BOYER, A.G., HELEN F.J., OLSON, S.L. & GRANT-MACKIE, J.A. (2010): Long-term ecological change in a conservation hotspot: The fossil avifauna of Mé Auré Cave, New Caledonia. – Biodiversity and Conservation, 19: 3207-3224.

DOVE, C. & OLSON, S.L. (2011): Fossil feathers from the Hawaiian flightless ibis (*Apteribis* sp.): plumage coloration and systematics of a prehistorically extinct bird. – Journal of Paleontology, 85: 892-897.

HEARTY, P.J. & OLSON, S.L. (2011): Preservation of trace fossils and molds of terrestrial biota by intense storms in mid-last interglacial (MIS 5c) dunes on Bermuda, with a model for development of hydrological conduits. *Palaios*, 26: 394-405.

LONGRICH, N.R. & OLSON, S.L. (2011): The bizarre wing of the Jamaican flightless ibis *Xenicibis xympithecus*: a unique vertebrate adaptation. – Royal Society of London Proceedings B, 278: 2333-2337.

OLSON, S.L. (2010): James Petiver's "Mary-Land Yellow-Throat" - a bird misidentified through four centuries. – Archives of Natural History, 37(2): 221-226.

OLSON, S.L. (2011): [Review of] Birds (Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology). By. Dale Serjeantson. – Wilson Journal of Ornithology, 123: 190-192.

OLSON, S.L. (2011): The fossil record and history of doves on Bermuda (Aves: Columbidae). – Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington, 124(1): 1-6.

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OLSON, S.L. (2012): Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) takes Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*): pathology and process of an exceptional predation event. – Banisteria, 39: 76-77.

OLSON, S.L. (2012): In Memoriam: Evgeny N. Kurochkin, 1940-(2011): – Auk, 129(4): 790-791.

OLSON, S.L. (2012): History, structure, evolution, behavior, distribution, and ecology of the Extinct Hawaiian Genus *Ciridops* (Fringillidae, Carduelini, Drepanidini). – Wilson Journal of Ornithology, 124(4): 651-674.

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OLSON, S.L. & HEARTY, P.J. (2013): Fossilized egg indicates probable breeding of Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) on Bermuda in the Middle Pleistocene. – Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington, 126(2): 169-177.

OLSON, S.L. & HEARTY, P.J. (2013): Periodicity of extinction and recolonization of the West Indian topshell *Cittarium pica* in the Quaternary of Bermuda (Gastropoda: Trochoidea). – Biological Journal of the Linnean Society, 110: 235-243.

OLSON, S.L., LOFTIN, H. & GOODWIN, S. (2010): Biological, geographical, and cultural origins of the loon hunting tradition in Carteret County, North Carolina. – Wilson Journal of Ornithology, 122(4): 716-24.

OLSON, S.L. & RAUZON, M.J. (2011): The extinct Wake Island Rail *Gallirallus wakensis*: a comprehensive species account based on museum specimens and archival records. – Wilson Journal of Ornithology, 123(4): 663–689.

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RANDO, J.C., PIEPER, H., ALCOVER, J.A. & OLSON, S.L. (2012): A new species of extinct fossil scops owl (Aves: Strigiformes: *Otus*) from the Archipelago of Madeira (North Atlantic Ocean). – Zootaxa, 3182: 29-42.