SOCIETY OF AVIAN PALEONTOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

- Newsletter -

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SOCIETY OF
AVIAN
PALEONTOLOGY
AND
EVOLUTION

Dear Friends, Colleagues, and SAPE Members,

The proceedings of our past 10th SAPE meeting in 2023 in Malaga were recently published in June 2025 in GEOBIOS (vol. 90) see: https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/geobios/vol/90/suppl/C.

I wish to express my sincere thanks again to Francisco "Kiko" Serrano, his editorial team and all authors for realizing and contributing to this wonderful volume.

In less than a year our 11th SAPE meeting is coming up in October 2026 in Ötautahi Christchurch, New Zealand and I hope to meet many of you in person there. The organizing committee is already working hard and an update on the upcoming SAPE meeting is provided in this newsletter.

We, the executive council, have already taken the first necessary steps to prepare SAPE for its next three-year cycle in accordance with our statutes. Our recently formed nomination committee [thanks to Hanneke Meijer (Bergen, NOR), Luis Chiappe (Los Angeles, U.S.A.), and Trevor Worthy (Adelaide, AUS) for their service] is already searching for potential candidates for upcoming open positions. Be aware that only active members (being SAPE members continuously for at least the past four years) are eligible for any of the open offices in the next executive council and that only active members will be allowed to vote during our next Business Meeting. If not done already for the 2023-2026 period, please pay your membership fees! Dues and/or donations can be paid easiest via PayPal to the SAPE society (find instructions on our SAPE-homepage. See: https://www.sapesociety.org/?page_id=11).

If you have any proposals or questions concerning our SAPE Society, please let us know several weeks in advance for the next meeting so that the executive council can discuss these during the next Stated Meeting and subsequently during our Business Meeting in Christchurch.

Call for proposals to host the 12th international SAPE meeting in 2029:
SAPE is searching for a host and host institution for the next 12th international meeting of the SAPE in 2029. Potential hosts must submit a written proposal to the

president (email: ursula.goehlich@nhm.at) not later than end of March 2026.

The proposal must specify the details of the meeting and include a guarantee to publish and distribute the proceedings of the meeting in a collected form according to the highest scientific standards, including peer review. Please be aware, that the Host Site shall have all local and financial responsibilities for the preparation and running of the Stated Meeting. The selection of the next venue will then be made during our next Business Meeting in Christchurch by vote of the present members.

As this is my last note as President of SAPE, I wish to warmly thank Vanesa (Secretary), Adam (Treasurer) and Jingmai (Vice-President and President Elect) for their supportive and straightforward cooperation. It was a pleasure to work with you. I also thank the current members-at-large for their contributions, Estelle for taking care of our homepage for many past years, and Paul who recently took over this task. May SAPE continue to attract many new members who strengthen our research discipline. I hope to meet many of you personally in Christchurch next year.

Ursula Göhlich
President

SAPE HONOURS MARK NORELL (1957-2025)

Mark Norell was a paleontologist of legend, known for his adventures in the field, his keen insights into reptile evolution, his impressive art collection, and his love of a good time. He is widely considered one of the most insightful paleontologists of his generation and he was respected by all. He is perhaps best known for his decades of fossil hunting adventures across Mongolia, where he discovered and described numerous species of dinosaurs, mammals, lizards, and more. He also was heavily involved in the early study and description of feathered dinosaurs from China beginning in the 1990's. His early adventures in China are documented in his Anthony Bourdain style book, Feathered dragons, beautifully illustrated by photographs taken by Mick Ellison, Mark's scientific illustrator, photographer, and longtime friend. Compared to most paleontologists, Mark had an unconventional beginning. He was teaching molecular biology at Yale when he was hired in 1990 by the American Museum of Natural History to be their dinosaur paleontologist, where he served for over 30 years. Mark served Chairman of the Paleontology department for many years and trained several generations of paleontologists who carry on his legacy around the world. He was an avid traveler, conducting fieldwork and visiting friends all around the world while also finding time to curate exhibits, write popular books, and make fashion statements. After battling health issues related to a heart attack in 2020, Mark finally passed away of heart failure in September of this year at the age of 68 surrounded by friends and family.

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SAPE HONOURS PIERRE COCKX

Those who were lucky to know Dr. Pierre Cockx remember him as smart, witty, funny, kind, and hard working. Originally from Fance, he was soft spoken, but when he opened his mouth it was always to quietly let loose a comment that was either insightful or funny and often times both. He was only 27 when he passed away suddenly of cardiac failure in July, while serving as a postdoctoral researcher at the IVPP. Pierre did his BSc in Earth Sciences at the University of Western Brittany and his MSc in Paleontology at the University of Rennes, advised by Drs Didier Néraudeau and Vincent Perrichot. I first knew him as a co-author, working together to describe 100-million-year-old feathers preserved in the famous Kachin amber during his PhD. Fossil amber was the focus of his PhD research while at the University of Regina studying under Dr. Ryan McKellar, where he described feathers and insects from Myanmar and Canada. He then went on to do a postdoc at the University of Bristol with Dr. Michael J. Benton. This summer I finally got to meet Pierre in person in the most intimate way possible – two weeks of field work in the remote western region of Gansu Province led by his postdoc advisor, Dr. HU Han. During this time in the far west of China, our small posse of 'laowai' quarried every day for hours in search of Mesozoic birds (which we found) and in the evenings had many laughs with our Chinese colleagues and curious locals. Over wine and sometimes dance music, Pierre spoke to me of his desire to marry his girlfriend "Bai", who I met a couple weeks later in Beijing as his fiancée, and his possible desire for children in the future. By the end of the trip I considered him a good friend and it was a horrible shock to hear about his passing only a month later. Pierre's untimely death is a tragedy, and our hearts go out to his parents and fiancée. In honor of Pierre's memory and the legacy he leaves behind, a memorial fund has been established by his family. This fund will support young researchers interested in pursuing palaeontology graduate studies. We invite you to contribute to this fund as a way of celebrating Pierre's life and continuing the impact he made on all of us. Any amount is deeply appreciated and will go directly toward providing financial support to graduate students following an academic path similar to Pierre's.

To donate, please visit:
www.royalsaskmuseum.ca/donate/donate-now and indicate the "Pierre Cockx fund" in the notes field above the payment details. Your donations will be managed by the Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, a non-profit group supporting student research. Your support means the world to those who knew and loved Pierre.

(Jingmai O'Connor)

Publications:

LOEWEN, E.J.T., BALKWILL, M.A., ROLIM, J.M., **Cockx, P.**, VELEZ CAICEDO, M., MUEHLENBACHS, K., TAPPERT, R.,BORKENT, A., ENGEL. M.S., SOMERS, C., & MCKELLAR, R.C. (In press): New Canadian amber

deposit fills gap in fossil record near end-Cretaceous mass extinction. – Current Biology.

SOSIAK, C., **Cockx, P.**, ARAGONÉS SUAREZ, P., MCKELLAR, R.C., & BARDEN, P. (In press): Prolonged faunal turnover in earliest ants revealed by North American Cretaceous amber. – Current Biology.

Cockx, P., TAPPERT, R., MUEHLENBACHS, K., SOMERS, C., & MCKELLAR, R.C. (2021): Amber from a Tyrannosaurus rex bonebed deposit (Saskatchewan, Canada) with implications for paleoenvironment and paleoecology. – Cretaceous Research, 125: 104865.

Cockx, P., MCKELLAR, R., TAPPERT, R., VAVREK, M., & MUEHLENBACHS, K. (2020): Bonebed amber as a new source of paleontological data: the case of the Pipestone Creek deposit (Upper Cretaceous), Alberta, Canada. – Gondwana Research, 81: 378−389.

XING, L.*, **Cockx, P.***, & MCKELLAR, R.C. (2020): Disassociated feathers in Burmese amber shed new light on mid-Cretaceous dinosaurs and avifauna. – Gondwana Research, 82: 241−253.

XING, L., O'CONNOR, J.L., NIU, K., **Cockx, P.**, MAI, H., & MCKELLAR, R. (2020): A new enantiornithine (Aves) preserved in mid-Cretaceous Burmese amber contributes to growing diversity of Cretaceous plumage patterns. – Frontiers in Earth Science, 8: 264.

XING, L.*, **Cockx, P.***, O'CONNOR, J.K., & MCKELLAR, R.C. (2020): A newly discovered enantiornithine foot preserved in mid-Cretaceous Burmese amber. – Palaeoentomology, 3(2): 212−219.

MCKELLAR, R.C., JONES, E., ENGEL, M.S., TAPPERT, R., WOLFE, AP., MUEHLENBACHS, K., **Cockx, P.**, KOPPELHUS, E., & CURRIE, P. J. (2019): A direct association between amber and dinosaur remains provides paleoecological insights. – Scientific Reports, 9(1): 1−7.

XING, L.*, **Cockx, P.***, MCKELLAR, R. C., & O'CONNOR, J. (2018): Ornamental feathers in Cretaceous Burmese amber: resolving the enigma of rachis-dominated feather structure. – Journal of Palaeogeography, 7(1): 13.

Cockx, P., & MCKELLAR, R.C. (2018): A new genus and species of the subfamily Pemphredoninae (Hymenoptera: Crabronidae) in Upper Cretaceous amber from Myanmar. – Comptes Rendus Palevol, 17(3): 153−157.

Cockx, P., MCKELLAR, R.C., & PERRICHOT, V. (2016): First records of the subfamilies Bethylinae (Hymenoptera: Bethylidae) and Cleptinae (Hymenoptera: Chrysididae) in Upper Cretaceous amber from France. – Cretaceous Research, 68: 1−8.

Cockx, P., & MCKELLAR, R.C. (2016): First record of the family Scolebythidae (Hymenoptera) in mid-Cretaceous amber from Myanmar. – Cretaceous Research, 67: 133−139.

Cockx, P., KEATING, J.N., & BENTON, M.J. (Accepted): Estimating ancestral states of complex characters: a case study on the evolution of feathers. – Systematic Biology.

"*****" denotes a co-first author position.

11TH SAPE MEETING IN ŌTAUTAHI CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND, 2026

We are looking forward to hosting the next SAPE Meeting in 2026 in Christchurch, NZ. The conference will be held in Central Christchurch, between **Tuesday, October 20th – Friday, October 23rd.** The venue will be the Town Hall, overlooking the Avon River. There will be a range of accommodation options, with restaurants and pubs close by. You can find more information about this great city here https://www.christchurchnz.com/.

We hope to have a website up and running before sending out the second circular in March next year, which is around the time we expect registration to open. So start thinking about those abstracts!

We are currently welcoming proposals for:

- **Symposia**
- **Special Sessions**
- **Workshops**

Submit your proposals to the organizing committee members (please refer to the First Circular for details) and help us build an unforgettable program!

(Vanesa De Pietri)

CÉCILE MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ TRAVEL GRANTS

Call for applications for the Cécile Mourer-Chauviré Travel Grant:

As with the previous two meetings, SAPE is once again offering the opportunity to apply for Cécile Mourer-Chauviré Travel Grants, the scope of which is to provide financial support for graduate students and disadvantaged scholars to attend the SAPE meeting to present their research.

Applications must be sent not later than the **end of March 2026** to the secretary Vanesa De Pietri (sape.secretary@gmail.com) or the president (ursula.goehlich@nhm.at).
Please contact the secretary or the president to receive further information about the application guidelines.
Please remember that the Cécile Mourer-Chauviré Travel Grant for students relies entirely on your membership dues and donations. Thank you for your support!

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 10TH SAPE MEETING

The special issue of Geobios arising from the 10th SAPE Meeting—edited by Kiko Serrano and comprising of twelve papers—was finally published in June 2025. The full volume is available here:

https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/geobios/vol/90/suppl/C

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CALL FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Anyone not listed on the website (http://www.sapesociety.org/?page_id=109) as a current SAPE member is encouraged to follow the instructions on the SAPE website (http://www.sapesociety.org) and renew your membership immediately. Please also encourage your colleagues and students to join the society. (Please note that you if you have recently paid your membership fees, you may not yet be on the list).

The membership rate is $30.00 USD for students and $50 USD for professionals for a 3-year period between SAPE meetings. Dues paid now will cover the period from now until the SAPE meeting in Christchurch in 2026. We do provide discounted rates ($20 USD) for members residing in Middle HDI and developing countries. Please see our website for details.

The entire executive council would like to thank you in advance for renewing your membership and supporting SAPE and our mission. If you would like to make an additional gift to the society please reach out to Treasurer, Adam Smith (paleobirdsmith@gmail.com) and/or SAPE President Ursula Göhlich (ursula.goehlich@nhm-wien.ac.at).

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Overall, the society is in good financial standing. Donations and membership dues during the period of October 1st, 2024, through September 30th of 2025 generated $386.5 (USD). Expenditures over the last year were limited to website hosting service fees (~$160 USD). The current bank balance of The SAPE stands at $9,954.84 USD, and will allow us to offer Cecile Mourer-Chauviré Travel Grants to student members of the society for the upcoming meeting in New Zealand in 2026.

SAPE Treasurer, N. Adam Smith

SAVE THE DATE

7th International Palaeontological Congress
You are warmly invited to attend the 7th International Palaeontological Congress (IPC7) in Cape Town, South Africa from the 30 November to 3 December 2026.
Please visit our website for more details:
The 7th International Palaeontological Congress (ipc7.site)

NEWS FROM MEMBERS AND RECENT PUBLICATIONS

ARGENTINA

CAROLINA ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, from the Museo de La Plata and CONICET continues her work on Antarctic and South American fossil birds. She is actively involved in collaborative projects focused on Neogene material from Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, and Colombia, together with colleagues from those countries.

She also contributes to the training of young scientists: three of her students have recently completed their Ph.D. degrees and continue their postdoctoral research on the anatomy and taxonomy of Procellariiformes (Dra. ALEJANDRA PIRO), the osteohistology of penguins (Dr. LUIS GARAT), and the cranial and cervical anatomy, ontogeny, and biomechanics of woodpeckers (Dr. SEBASTIÁN LYONS). In addition, three other students are currently pursuing Ph.D. projects on the functional anatomy of Antarctic penguins (MARÍA ALEJANDRA SOSA), Cretaceous birds from Antarctica (FACUNDO IRAZOQUI, co-supervised by Dra. ARIANA PAULINA CARABAJAL), and the anatomy of the autopodium in birds and mammals (BRUNO QUAGGIA, co-

supervised by Dr. Javier N. Gelfo). Carolina is still a member of the Expert Group on Geoheritage and Geoconservation of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and serves as Professor at the Universidad Nacional de La Plata, where she teaches Principles of Paleontology (for second-year Paleontology students and fifth-year education students) and Vertebrate Paleontology (for fifth-year Paleontology students).

Research at the LACEV (Laboratorio de Anatomía Comparada y Evolución de los Vertebrados, at the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia" CONICET) currently focuses on diverse topics on Cenozoic and late Mesozoic birds and early bird evolution.

PhD candidate G. Álvarez Herrera is investigating multiple aspects of the anatomy of *Vegavis iaai*, using this material to explore early evolutionary patterns within Anseriformes, Galliformes, and Neoaves. S. Rozadilla completed his dissertation on the systematics and evolutionary history of palaeognaths, and is now focusing on anatomical studies of enantiornithine birds. G. Lo Coco, is developing several new studies centered on muscular reconstruction and forelimb biomechanics across the dinosaur–bird transition. F. Agnolín is engaged in the characterization of new Cenozoic bird taxa from Patagonia and in research dealing with the historical trajectory of fossil bird collections in museums. M. Motta dedicates most of his work to understanding the non-avian dinosaur–bird transition, including the development of new phylogenetic frameworks that reconsider the sequence of evolutionary steps leading to powered flight. He additionally studies the diversity and morphology of early paravian lineages from Patagonia and their significance for elucidating avian origins.

After 36 wonderful years working in this fascinating field—the evolution of birds—, Claudia Tambussi is now retired. It has been an incredible journey full of discoveries, ideas, and great people. She will keep reading and following her colleagues' work with the same curiosity and enthusiasm as always. She thanks everyone who shared this path with her.

The Avian Biomorphodynamics Research Group (ABReG) constituted by CONICET (National Scientific and Technical Research Council, Argentina) researchers Federico "Dino" Degrange, María Manuela Demmel Ferreira and Milagros Torres Etchegorry (Research Center on Earth Sciences – CICTERRA, National University of Córdoba) in Córdoba; Claudio G. Barbeito, Julieta Carril, Nancy Arias and Maria Cecilia Netri (Institute of Animal Morphology and Pathology -IMPA-, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, National University of La Plata), and Ricardo De Mendoza (Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences of the National University of Mar del Plata) in Buenos Aires province, continue their work on several topics on the biology, paleobiology and evolution of South American and Antarctic birds. Using different approaches and methodological tools the main present research carried out focuses on the study of network analysis to examine avian musculoskeletal anatomy, ontogeny, and evolution; biomechanical disparity of the skull of several birds, the evolution of the cervical system in Cariamiformes (with emphasis on terror birds), the evolution of diving in ducks, the evolution of brain morphology and sense organs in stem-Anseriformes (including the Paleocene *Conflicto*), as well as in fossil Pleistocene Passeriformes; and the study of the morphology and development of reproductive and digestive system of parrots by means of histological, histochemical, and immunohistochemical techniques. Additional research includes the description of a new specimen of a terror bird coming from Mendoza, a new duck coming from the Pliocene of La Rioja, the jaw myology of the burrowing owl, and the analysis of the fossil avifauna from the Atlantic coast of Buenos Aires Province.

Acosta Hospitaleche, C., Sosa, M.A., Piro, A., Irazoqui, F. (2025): La historia evolutiva de las aves marinas de América del sur a través del registro fósil. – El Hornero, Volumen 39, Número 2: 15-36. Volumen Especial.

Agnolin, F. L., Chafrat, P., & Álvarez-Herrera, G. P. (2025): New specimens of *Patagorhacos terrificus* Agnolín and Chafrat, 2015 (Aves) shed light on the phylogeny and evolution of the Phorusrhacidae. – Historical Biology, 1-13.

Agnolín, F. L., Álvarez Herrera, G., Rozadilla, S., & Contreras, V. (2025): First late Miocene bird assemblage from central Argentina, with the description of new taxa. – Historical Biology, 1-17.

Bonini, R.A.; Romano, C.O.; Miño-Boilini, A.R.; Armella, M.A.; Madozzo-Jaén, M.C.; Torres-Carro, V.; Nuñez-Blasco, A.; Rearte, D.E.; Degrange, F.J.; Prevosti, F.J.; Schmidt, G.I.; Zurita, A.E.; Sferco, E.; Cruz, L.E.; Robledo, J.M.; Baez, J.S.; Crisafulli, A.; Pisano, M.F.; Bellinzoni, J.E.; Prado, J.L.; Spagnuolo, C.M.; Ibañez, L.M.; Georgieff, S.M.; Ochoa, J.G. & García, M.E. (2025): Late Neogene vertebrates from the Villavil - Quillay Basin (Northwestern Argentina): diversity and chronological implications. – Journal of South American Earth Sciences, 163: 105599. DOI:10.1016/j.jsames.2025.105599

Cannell, A.E. & Degrange, F.J. (2025): Into thin air: the loss of the Pliocene giant volant birds. – Evolving Earth, 3: 100055. DOI: 10.1016/j.eve.2024.100055.

Carril, J.; De Mendoza, R.S.; Degrange, F.J.; Barbeito, C.G. & Tambussi, C.P. (2024): The evolutionary journey of the avian foot through its networks. – Nature Communications, 15: 9888. DOI:10.1038/s41467-024-54297-9

De los Reyes, M., Acosta Hospitaleche, C., Sosa, M. A. (in press): A Rallidae (Aves, Gruiformes) from the Pleistocene La Esperanza Formation of Olavarría (Argentina). – PE-APA

Degrange, F.J.; Tambussi, C.P. & Witmer, L.M. (2025): Reversing the Trend: The Evolution of Cranial Akinesis in the Terror Birds (Cariamiformes, Phorusrhacidae). – Fossil Studies 3: 12. DOI: 10.3390/fossils3030012

Degrange, F.J.; Cooke, S.B.; Ortiz-Pabón, L.G.; Pelegrin, J.S.; Perdomo, C.A.; Salas-Gismondi, R.; Link, A. (2025): Too Much Terror: A Gigantic Terror Bird (Cariamiformes: Phorusrhacidae) from the Middle Miocene of La Venta, Colombia. – Diversity, 17: 681. DOI: 10.3390/d17100681

Fratani, J., Fontanarrosa, G., Carril, J., De Mendoza, R.S.; Tambussi, C.P & Dos Santos DA. (2025): Graph Theory Applications in Morphology: Insights from Argentina. – Journal of Experimental Zoology Part B: Molecular and Developmental Evolution. DOI: 10.1002/jez.b.23334

Garat, L.M., Talevi, M., Acosta Hospitaleche, C. (2025): Penguin osteohistology, the key role of the Internal Circumferential Layer in gender determination. – Polar Biology, 48 (38). https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-5094072/v1

García Marsà, J. A. G., Agnolín, F. L., Angst, D., & Buffetaut, E. (2025): Paleohistological Analysis of

"Terror Birds" (Phorusrhacidae, Brontornithidae): Paleobiological Inferences. Diversity, 17(3): 153.

IRAZOQUI, F., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., GELFO, JAVIER N., PAULINA CARABAJAL, A., BONA, P. & ACOSTA BURLAILLE, L. (2026; 2025 online): Diving in the Maastrichtian of Marambio (Seymour) Island: A new member of the Neoaves in the Cretaceous Antarctic avifauna. – Cretaceous Research 179 (2026) 106259.

LINK, A.; MORENO-BERNAL, J.W.; DEGRANGE, F.J.; COOKE, S.B.; ORTIZ-PABÓN, L.G.; PERDOMO, C.A. & SALAS-GISMONDI, R. (2025): Direct evidence of trophic interaction between a crocodyliform and a large terror bird in the Middle Miocene of La Venta, Colombia. – Biology Letters, 21: 20250113. DOI: doi.org/10.1098/rsbl.2025.0113.

LO COCO, G. E., MOTTA, M. J., AGNOLÍN, F. L., & NOVAS, F. E. (2025): Reconstruction of pectoral musculature in non-avialan paravians and basal birds: implications in the acquisition of flapping flight. – BMC Ecology and Evolution, 25(1): 113.

LYONS, S., ROSSET, S., PICASSO, M., & & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (in press): Functional and evolutionary insights from postnatal skull and cervical development in woodpeckers (Aves: Picidae). – Vertebrate Zoology.

MARTINELLI, A. G., BOGAN, S., AGNOLIN, F., MIÑANA, M., MAYONI, M. G., PEREZ WINTER, C. V., ... & WINCKLER, G. (2025): Catálogo de modelos de animales extintos en el Colegio Nacional de Buenos Aires:"Los Modelos Vetter". – Historia Natural, 15 (1): 27-55.

MOTTA, M. J., & NOVAS, F. E. (2025): Osteology of Austroraptor cabazai (Paraves: Theropoda): a southern gigantic unenlagiid from the Late Cretaceous of Patagonia. – Historical Biology, 1-123.

MOTTA, M. J., AGNOLÍN, F. L., BRISSÓN EGLI, F., ROZADILLA, S., & NOVAS, F. E. (2025): Phylogenetic relationships of Unenlagiidae among Paraves (Dinosauria). – Journal of Systematic Palaeontology, 23(1): 2529608.

REGUERO, M., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., O'GORMAN, J., MOLY, J. (2025): The Antarctic fossil vertebrate collection of the Museo de La Plata: historical perspective of four decades of earth sciences investigations in Antarctica. – Volumen Especial Publicación Electrónica de la Asociación Paleontológica Argentina, 25(1): 248–277. https://doi.org/10.5710/PEAPA.05.09.2024.465

SMITH, J.A.; DOWDING, E.M.; ABDELHADY, A.A. ET AL. (2025): Identifying the Big Questions in paleontology: a community-driven project. – Paleobiology, 51: 408-431. DOI:10.1017/pab.2025.10042

SOSA, M.A., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2025): Hindlimb muscles of the Emperor Penguin Aptenodytes forsteri (Aves, Sphenisciformes) at different postnatal ontogenetic stages. – Journal of Anatomy, 00: 1–28. https://doi.org/10.1111/joa.14217

STEFANINI, M.I.; MILLA CARMONA, P.S.; GÓMEZ-BAHAMÓN, V.; MONGIARDINO KOCH, N.; SOTO, I.M.; GÓMEZ, R.O.; ZYSKOWSKI, K. & TAMBUSSI, C.P. (2025): Craniofacial modularity and the evolution of cranial kinesis in the adaptive radiation of Furnariidae (Aves: Passeriformes). – Evolution, 79: 625-640. DOI: 10.1093/evolut/qpaf013

TORRES ETCHEGORRY, M. & DEGRANGE, F.J. (2025): Insights into *Argentavis magnificens* (Aves, Teratornithidae) lifestyle based on its neuroanatomy. – Journal of Anatomy, 246: 1001-1018. DOI: 10.1111/joa.14184.

CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., GELFO, J. N., QUAGGIA, B. & REGUERO, M. A. (2024): Antarctic Geoheritage and Geoconservation on two Holocene sites of South Shetland Islands, Antarctica. 11th SCAR Open Science Conference. Pucón, Chile, 19 al 23 de agosto de 2024.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., SOSA, M. A. (2025): Meet the Antarctic giant: the world's largest penguin skull ever discovered. Abstract Book, p. 88. – XIVth International Symposium on Antarctic Earth Sciences. Punta Arenas, 18 al 23 de agosto de 2025.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C.; SOSA, M. ALEJANDRA; DE LOS REYES, M., AND BIGURRARENA OJEDA, M. (2024): A new Eocene skeleton from Seymour Island reshapes our understanding of fossil penguin anatomy. – 11th SCAR Open Science Conference. Pucón, Chile, 19 al 23 de agosto de 2024.

ARIAS, N.; CARRIL, J.; DE MENDOZA, R.S.; NETRI, M.C. & BARBEITO, C.G. (2025): The origin and diversification of the stomach morphotypes of birds. – Acta Zoologica Lilloana, 69: 503-504. II Congreso Latinoamericano de Evolución (CLEVOL).

CARRIL, J.; DE MENDOZA, R.S.; BARBEITO, C.G. & TAMBUSSI, C.P. (2025): The network ontogeny of the chicken's hind limbs. – Acta Zoologica Lilloana, 69: 372-373. II Congreso Latinoamericano de Evolución (CLEVOL).

DE MENDOZA, R.S.; CARRIL, J. & TAMBUSSI C.P. (2025): Functional trait networks reveal patterns of centrality, integration and modularity in birds. – Acta Zoologica Lilloana, 69: 289-290. II Congreso Latinoamericano de Evolución (CLEVOL).

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AUSTRALIA

Research on avian palaeontology at Flinders University continued to prosper through the 2024–25 year. PHOEBE MCINERNEY has published another chapter of her PhD on *Genyornis*, this one on the morphology of the cochlea in dromornithids. JACOB BLOKLAND (PhD candidate) is putting the final touches on his thesis concerning the phylogenetic relationships and diversity of Australasian Oligo-Miocene rails. Jacob and Trevor were pleased to enter a collaboration with George Sangster and others on the New Zealand rail *Tribonyx hodgenorum*, which as a result became reallocated to *Porzana*, creating yet another other example of insular flightless gigantism. KARL LENSER (PhD candidate) continues to grow his sample size for specimens contributing to the avifaunas of Victoria Fossil Cave, Naracoorte (Early-Mid Pleistocene) and Cathedral Cave, Wellington, NSW (Late Pleistocene)—well over 1000 for each fauna now. A couple of new species have appeared as well. Karl has also submitted a revised version of his Honours research on a diverse assemblage with numerous specimens of fossil shorebirds (Aves: Charadriiformes) from the Late Pleistocene at Naracoorte Caves, South Australia, to *Palaeontologica Electronica*. TIM NIEDERER (PhD candidate) continues to work on the Oligo-Miocene fossil flamingos and palaelodids from Australia. TREVOR WORTHY continues to work on a variety of projects. Finally coming out late last year was a chapter in *Encyclopedia of Quaternary Science* with Phoebe and Jacob that summarized the vertebrate fossil fauna of Oceania, i.e., the region encompassed by New Zealand to Easter Island, Hawaii, Solomons and New Caledonia. Sites generally are younger than Late Pleistocene and most faunas result from archaeological sites from first human contact on an island, as David Steadman detailed in his book *Extinction and Biogeography of Tropical Pacific Birds*. Collaborations with Alex Boast and Andre Bellvé and coauthors, on kakapo and procellariiforms, respectively, used fossils and modelling techniques to assess former range and habitat use, were published. The contributions to the SAPE proceedings volume were allocated to a volume and gained pagination. As a bit of a side project, tiny objects from among the St Bathans Fauna were finally identified conclusively as the molars on parastacid (crayfish) mandibles, the first time such have been identified in the fossil record. Also from the St Bathans Fauna, a passerine was identified as a possible currawong relative in Cracticinae, becomes the second named passerine from the fauna, and revealing another Australian connection. Finally, a project with a long genesis—dates back to 1982 when Trevor first visited Moa Eggshell Cave near Waitomo and found a bone and noted the significance of volcanic tephra deposits—has a first result. The tephras are revealed to be 1.0 and 1.55 Ma and show the cave to be one of the oldest in NZ, and provide temporal constraints to sediments containing avifaunas thus shown to be the oldest from caves in New Zealand. Stay tuned for the next instalment.

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AUSTRIA

There was not much occasion and time for fossil bird research this year for Ursula GÖHLICH (Natural History Museum Vienna). Ursula co-supervised several bachelor and master students on different fossil mammalian topics (whales, anthracotheres, sabre tooth cat) and collaborated on several projects dealing with different vertebrate groups, unfortunately all non-avian. Ursula presented some preliminary results on a new aquatic avifauna from the Lower Miocene of Austria recently at the SVP meeting in Birmingham and hopes to present the final results in Christchurch.

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MASCARENHAS K.J., GÖHLICH U.B., WINKLER V. & LAUTENSCHLAGER S. (2025): The NHM Vienna sabre-toothed cat *Smilodon populator*: A new body mass estimate using digital reconstruction and computational analysis methods. - 29th Annual Meeting of the Austrian Paleontological Society (Sept. 2025): Abstracts and Program: 23 (Österreichische Paläontologische Gesellschaft), Wien.

BELGIUM

KOEN CLAEYS is working on a paper which proposes a new hypothesis on the evolution of the Palaeognathae and is still looking for someone to discuss it with before moving towards journal submission. A link to the paper can be found here https://zenodo.org/records/17391537.

BULGARIA

ZLATOZAR BOEV is supervising PhD students MIHAIL ILIEV: on the spatial ecology and migration strategy in the Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis* Pallas, 1769), and CHESHMEDZHIEV, SV.: Population dynamics, spatial ecology and migration strategy of the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus* Bruch, 1832). National Museum of Natural History, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

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BOEV, Z. (2024): Birds in medieval Bulgarian art. - Natural Sciences and Advanced Technology Education, 33 (5-6): 375-383. https://doi.org/10.53656/nat2024-5-6.06 (in Bulgarian, English summary).
BOEV, Z. (2025): Woodland Birds from Neolithic Settlements in Bulgaria. Diversity, MDPI, 17, 107. https://doi.org/10.3390/d17020107
BOEV, Z. (2025): Birds from Chalcolithic Settlements in the Plains of Bulgaria. Quaternary, MDPI, 8, 10: 1-11. https://doi.org/10.3390/quat8010010
BOEV, Z. (2025): Terminologia ornithologica bulgarica. Vol. I. Taxonomia. Illustrated trilingual dictionary of the birds of the world. English - Latin – Bulgarian. Part 1. Non-Passeriformes. National Museum of Natural History – Bulgarian Ornithological Society. Sofia. 432 pp. ISBN 978-954-8828-20-8
BOEV, Z. (2025): Terminologia ornithologica bulgarica. Vol. I. Taxonomia. Illustrated trilingual dictionary of the birds of the world. English - Latin – Bulgarian. Part 2. Passeriformes. National Museum of Natural History – Bulgarian Ornithological Society. Sofia. 508 pp. ISBN: 978-954-8828-21-5
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BOEV, Z. (2024): The mane-dove – the largest pigeon in Europe. – Lov i ribolov, 11: 56-59. (in Bulgarian).
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FRANCE

In Lyon University (Geology lab –LGL-TPE), ANTOINE LOUCHART and colleagues did a new (and third) field mission on Saint Helena Island (South Atlantic) in August-September 2025. The team comprised this year also of IUNA LE GOUËLLEC-FROHNMAIER, ANAÏS DUHAMEL, JULIAN HUME, and JULIEN JOSEPH, and was joined as usual on Saint Helena by the always welcoming local colleagues and friends. They found a wealth of new fossils, new sites and new kinds of material, the birds to be studied by Iuna who is starting the PhD devoted to the paleontological (osteological) study of the thousands of subfossil birds found, plus paleoproteomic analyses. The team will extend their research to Ascension Island starting next year. Anaïs is also now starting her final (fourth) year of PhD, devoted to the tracking of past migratory behaviour using biogeochemistry and osteomorphology; she is finalizing the publication of the geochemical analyses methodological part. Antoine is also still working on parallel, long-term projects, including finalizing the study of some taxa from the early Pliocene of Langebaanweg (South Africa) with ALBRECHT MANEGOLD and MARCO PAVIA for some taxa, and other various (mainly Neogene) localities in other countries.

CÉCILE MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ is happy to announce that the long-awaited monography on the Early Pleistocene locality of Senèze has been published at the end of 2024. This locality includes the last appearance of a Peafowl in the European Pleistocene. She also participated, together with other specialists on Gastornithidae, in the resurrection of the genus *Diatryma*.

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GERMANY

Current projects of GERALD MAYR mainly focus around early Eocene birds from Europe. Together with Lance Grande and Daniel Ksepka, he is coauthor of a (yet to be published) book on the avifauna of the Green River Formation.

MAYR, G. (2025): A derived morphology of the quadrate may support a previously unrecognized major higher-level clade of neoavian birds. – Journal of Morphology, 286: e70070

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MAYR, G., GOEDERT, J.L., AND RICHTER, A. (2025): Nearly complete late Eocene skull from the North Pacific elucidates the cranial morphology and affinities of the penguin-like Plotopteridae. – The Science of Nature, 112: 27; doi: 10.1007/s00114-025-01977-1.

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HUNGARY

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HORVÁTH, I. (2025). New records of fossil bird bones from the Neogene in Hungary. – Zootaxa, 5627(2): 327-342.

ITALY

In the last year, MARCO PAVIA continued the study of birds from South African sites with the analysis of the birds from Bolt's Farm in the Cradle of Humankind and the continuation of the studies of bird remains from Langebaanweg. The analysis of the Bolt's Farm material is now almost concluded, and the bird association is quite diverse with interesting taxa not commonly reported, as the Otididae. The manuscript should be submitted at the beginning of next year.

The study of the birds from Langebaanweg is focused on the Accipitridae, Phalacrocoracidae (in collaboration with H. JAMES, and some Passeriformes, in collaboration with A. MANEGOLD, while the paper on the Apodidae is published and the one on Indicatoridae is accepted.

Other projects on fossil birds from Italy are still going on, including the Miocene of Gargano and the Plio/Pleistocene of Sardinia. He is still following the various curatorial processes on the fossil and recent collections in Torino.

He is also still busy with local projects on extant birds about the evolution of European bird species, their relationships with Africa, also inferred by the study of blood parasites.

In September 2026, he will coordinate the organization of the 14th Meeting of the European Bird Curators to be held in Torino, Italy.

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NEW ZEALAND

When BRIAN GILL (Auckland Museum, retired) recently studied North Island moa eggshell fragments, one of the sample sites was a pair of Late Holocene eroding sand-dune areas at Herbertville, southern Hawke's Bay. He, and CLINT EASTON (amateur palaeontologist), together or alone, revisited the site ten times between 2014 and 2024, collecting nearly 300 small bird bones from the sand surface. Brian has now identified these, which gives a snapshot of the pre-human avifauna of the North Island's south-eastern coastline. The remains represent at least 61 individual vertebrate animals of 25 species (including a seal and the tuatara), 48% of the species being now extinct at Herbertville.

In Christchurch, Research into the Paleocene bird fauna from the Waipara Gorge, near Christchurch, continues with strong collaboration. VANESA DE PIETRI and SOPHIE KELLY (University of Canterbury, UC), alongside PAUL SCOFIELD (Canterbury Museum), are making excellent progress. While the fauna is famed for its abundant penguins, other avian groups are also represented. Work on these non-penguin birds is a key focus for the team, with research scheduled to continue into 2026. In a related achievement, Ted Spinks (UC) successfully completed his MSc thesis. His work, supervised by Catherine Reid (UC), Vanesa De Pietri, and Sebastian Naeher, focused on the detailed sedimentology, stratigraphy, and geochemistry of the Waipara Greensand, providing crucial context for the fossil discoveries. Vanesa and Paul are also supervising MSc Jaden Cameron, who is working on Canterbury mosasaurs.

Work is also advancing well on the Miocene St Bathans fauna from Central Otago, in collaboration with Trevor Worthy. This diverse fauna has been the subject of several recent publications. Vanesa recently hosted a productive visit from overseas: ABI CRANE (PhD student from the University of Southampton, UK) undertook a three-month research placement at the University of Canterbury late last year. Abi produced some truly amazing results during her placement, significantly contributing to our understanding of the palaeobiology of several lineages, including moa. And she also won best student presentation at CAVEPS 2025 in Adelaide!

DE PIETRI, V.L., SCOFIELD, R.P., HAND, S.J., ARCHER, M., TENNYSON, A.J.D., & WORTHY, T.H. (2025): Early Miocene gull-like birds (Charadriiformes: Laridae)

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WORTHY, T.H., SCOFIELD, R.P., HAND, S.J., ARCHER, M., & DE PIETRI, V.L. (2025): A large cracticine passerine (Aves, Artamidae, Cracticinae) from the Early Miocene, St Bathans Fauna of New Zealand. – PalZ, 99, 371–383. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12542-025-00736-x
WORTHY, T.H., SCOFIELD, R.P., WORTHY, J.P., DE PIETRI V.L., & ARCHER, M. (2025): Parastacid (Decapoda, Parastacidae) fossil mandible remains from the Early Miocene, New Zealand. – Alcheringa: An Australasian Journal of Palaeontology, 49(3): 649–656. DOI: 10.1080/03115518.2025.2488056

POPULAR ARTICLES

DE PIETRI, V.L., SCOFIELD, R.P. (2025): Dagger beaks and strong wings: new fossils rewrite the penguin story and affirm NZ as a cradle of their evolution. – The Conversation. https://theconversation.com/dagger-beaks-and-strong-wings-new-fossils-rewrite-the-penguin-story-and-affirm-nz-as-a-cradle-of-their-evolution-261083
DE PIETRI, V.L., SCOFIELD, R.P., & WORTHY, T.H. (2025): Magpies may not be a pesky Australian import – new research finds their ancestors thrived in NZ a long time ago. – The Conversation. https://theconversation.com/magpies-may-not-be-a-pesky-australian-import-new-research-finds-their-ancestors-thrived-in-nz-a-long-time-ago-258795
SCOFIELD, R.P., YOUNG, G., & DE PIETRI, V.L. (2024): The discovery of a rare new fossil sheds light on NZ's extinct dolphin-like reptiles. – The Conversation. https://theconversation.com/the-discovery-of-a-rare-new-fossil-sheds-light-on-nzs-extinct-dolphin-like-reptiles-244383

POLAND

Continuing his research on the Eocene penguins of Seymour Island, PIOTR JADWISZCZAK (University of Białystok) investigates shape variation of specimens using a landmark-based approach applied to 3D-scanned bones and, together with Swedish collaborators THOMAS MÖRS and ASHLEY KRÜGER, employs X-ray microscopy (XRM) to study the internal structure of fossil material. The new project, which builds on the latter line of inquiry, is currently underway.

ELŻANOWSKI, A. (2025): Sentience, agency, and animal status. Pp. 116-141 in: T. Pietrzykowski & B. Wahlberg (eds) *Research Handbook on Animal Law and Animal Rights*, Edward Elgar Publishing.
JADWISZCZAK, P., KRÜGER, A. & MÖRS, T. (2025): Fossil and modern penguin tarsometatarsi: cavities, vascularity, and resilience. – Integrative Zoology, 20: 551–567. DOI: 10.1111/1749-4877.12852

RUSSIA

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GORBATCHEVA, V.O., ZELENKOV, N.V., & BERTELLI, S. (2025): An Eocene New World vulture (Aves, Cathartidae) from Mongolia – Papers in Palaeontology, 11 (5): e70041. https://doi.org/10.1002/spp2.70041
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ZELENKOV, N.V. (2025): A loon (Aves, Gaviiformes) from the Upper Miocene of Mongolia – Paleontological Journal, 59 (2): 215-220.
ZELENKOV, N.V. (2025): A new duck (Aves: Anatidae) from the Upper Pleistocene of Cuba –Zootaxa, 5633 (1): 139-150.
ZELENKOV, N.V. (2025): A capercaillie (Phasianidae: Tetraonini) and a diver (Gaviidae) – unexpected large birds from the Lower Pleistocene of Crimea – PalZ: in press. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12542-025-00755-8
ZELENKOV, N.V. (2025): Bustards (Aves, Otididae) from the Middle Miocene of Mongolia – Paleontological Journal, 59 (6): in the press.
ZELENKOV, N.V. & GORBATCHEVA, V.O. (2025): A goshawk (Aves, Accipitriformes: Accipitridae) from the Lower Pleistocene of Crimea, and dimorphism in the foot structure in *Astur gentilis* – Paleontological Journal, 59 (5): 562-470.
ZELENKOV, N.V., MASLINTSYNA, M.P., LAVROV, A.V., GIMRANOV, D.O., PAVLOV, I.S., KANDYBA, A.V. & PROTOPOPOV, A.V. (2025): A new Late Pleistocene avifauna from Yakutia (Eastern Siberia) – Doklady Biological Sciences, 523 (6): in press.

SPAIN

FRANCISCO J. SERRANO, Associate Professor at the University of Málaga and Research Associate at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, continues to develop a project funded by the Spanish Government focused on the evolution of active flight and its control in both living and extinct birds. Within this framework, he supervises the PhD theses of Mireia Costa and Javier Castro. Kiko Serrano is also involved in several

other research projects, including the description of a new Cretaceous bird from Spain, studies on intraspecific variation in enantiornithines, the physiology of early birds, the paleoecology of Early Pleistocene avifaunas in southern Iberia, and the evolution of the pterosaur spine. Several manuscripts related to these topics are currently under review.

JAVIER CASTRO TEROL continues his PhD research on the evolution of flapping flight under the supervision of Francisco Serrano at the University of Málaga. This year he published his first scientific paper, a microCT-based study of the enantiornithine *Iberomesornis romerali*, and carried out research stays at several German institutions to study Paleogene birds. In addition, Javier is presenting his ongoing work at various national and international scientific meetings, including the Spanish Society of Ornithology (SEO, Valencia, February 2025), the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP, Birmingham, November 2025), and the Spanish Society for Evolutionary Biology (SESBE, Valencia, January 2026).

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SERRANO F.J., CHIAPPE L.M., GÖHLICH, U. (2025): Foreword for the thematic volume of the 10th International Meeting of the Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution. In: Proceedings of the 10th International Meeting of the Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution (FJ Serrano, ed.). – Geobios: 90, 1-4.

SWEDEN

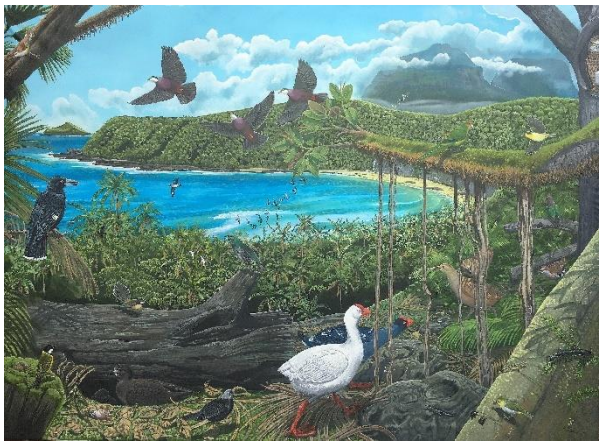
PER ERICSON continues to work on the systematics of birds together with colleagues in Sweden and China. He also studies ancient DNA in bird fossils from USA (with Steve Emslie), Europe (with John Stewart) and China (with Zhonghe Zhou). The project on the exploitation of wild birds during the Viking Age also continues. Regular species-identifications etc. of the bone material from Birka, Sweden, bones will also be subject to genetic and isotopic analyses to reveal prehistoric trade patterns.

MÜLLER, I.A., THÖRN, F., RAJAN, S., OLSEN, R.-A., ERICSON, P.G.P., PEONA, V., SMITH, B., MAIAH, G., KOANE, B., IOVA, B., BLOM, M.P.K., IRESTEDT, M. & JØNSSON, K.A. (2025): Ephemeral speciation in a New Guinean honeyeater complex (Aves: *Melidectes*). – Molecular Ecology, 34: e17760.

UNITED KINGDOM

DANIEL FIELD remains Strickland Curator of Ornithology and Professor of Vertebrate Palaeontology at the University of Cambridge. Since last year he is pleased to share that BASSEL ARNAOUT successfully defended his PhD on galloanseran cranial development and evolution in July and has moved to a postdoctoral position at the University of Calgary to work with Benedikt Hallgrímsson. STANLEY SOMOGYI and JASPER LEE successfully defended their MPhil theses investigating theoretical aspects of early crown bird evolution, and Tingyu Yu has joined the research group as a PhD student investigating phasianid evolution. Lab members FABIO ALFIERI, LIZZY STEELL, BASSEL ARNAOUT, OLIVER DEMUTH, KLARA WIDRIG, ALBERT CHEN, THOMAS MACGILLAVRY, GRACE BURTON, ABI CRANE, and GUILLERMO NAVALÓN led published contributions on taxa ranging from enantiornithines to Birds-of-Paradise. Daniel is most proud to share that he and his wife welcomed happy, healthy twin boys in August.

JULIAN PENDER HUME has spent almost 8 months finishing the third, revised edition of Extinct Birds, due in 2026. To give an idea of the task involved, the book has over a thousand entries, totalling around 282,000 words. A downside is a significant reduction in his scientific output, but hopefully publications will start picking up again, although he is already working on Extinct Ice Age Birds of North America, due in 2027! In June, JPH visited the Smithsonian to work on the Hawaiian Mohoidae and help sort STORRS OLSON'S remaining office library. This was my first visit since his passing in 2021, and although I stayed at his former residence, I found the experience emotionally stimulating, despite my fears. I can finally draw a line under the issue. A return to St Helena in September with ANTOINE LOUCHART and team, including ANAÏS DUHAMEL and JULIEN JOSEPH, was also rewarding, especially with the discovery of new fossil localities. Most interestingly, we found a deposit containing many pincers, both male and female, of the world's largest earwig, *Labidura herculeana*. To finish the year's fieldwork, in late October, JPH travels to Lord Howe Island to recce some new fossil localities and, after nearly 6 years due to Covid, etc., finally deliver a mural depicting the extinct fauna of Lord Howe Island.



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USA

Since retiring in 2021, Dave Steadman has lived in Sonoita, Arizona. Lacking access to comparative collections except during increasingly rare trips to Gainesville, he occasionally collaborates with other scientists as the morpho/paleo person on projects that are largely molecular in nature. An example is the paper below on the endemic Cuban Blue-headed Quail-Dove, *Starnoenas cyanocephala*.

OSWALD JA, BOYD BM, SZEWCZAK AR, LEFEBVRE MJ, STUCKY BJ, GURALNICK RP, JOHNSON KP, ALLEN JM, STEADMAN DW. (2025) Genomic data reveal that the Cuban blue-headed quail-dove (*Starnoenas cyanocephala*) is a biogeographic relict. – Biology Letters, 8;21(1):20240464.

Chicago

O'CONNOR lab/Dead Bird Nerds @Field Museum

In October 2025 Dr. PEI-CHEN KUO left our lab with his next stop being a postdoctoral position in the lab of Dr. HU Han at the IVPP. ALEX CLARK passed qualifications last Spring and is currently in the third year of his PhD publishing prolifically both on fossil and extant birds. In addition, another PhD student, ISAIAH MCKINNEY has joined our lab, working mostly on Green River birds and crownward avians from the Cretaceous. The first two papers on the Chicago *Archaeopteryx* (now the 14th specimen), were published this year. This summer, O'Connor conducted field work at the Changma locality of the Xiagou Formation in northwestern China (personally collecting three specimens of *Gansus*) and at the Las Hoyas locality in central Spain.

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BOHUS C, PARDO J, MANN A, O'CONNOR JK, DEVERA J. In press. New tetrapod material, faunal assemblage, and geology of the Late Mississippian-aged red bed deposits near Goreville, Illinois. – The Geological Society Special Publications.

CASTRO-TEROL J, PÉREZ-RAMOS A, O'CONNOR JK, SANZ JL, SERRANO FJ. (2025): Micro-CT reconstruction reveals new information about the phylogeny and locomotion of the Early Cretaceous bird *Iberomesornis romerali*. – Geobios, 90: 17-30.

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O'CONNOR JK. (2025): Insights into the early evolution of modern avian physiology from fossilized soft tissues from the Mesozoic. – Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society London B Biological Sciences, 380: 20230426.

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O'CONNOR JK, WANG X-L, CLARK AD, KUO P-C, DAVILA R, WANG Y, ZHENG X-T, ZHOU Z-H. (2025): A new small-bodied longipterygid (Aves: Enantiornithes) from the Aptian Jiufotang Formation preserving unusual gastroliths. – Paleontologica Electronica.

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