



SOCIETY OF AVIAN PALEONTOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

- Newsletter -

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SOCIETY OF AVIAN PALEONTOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

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Dear Friends, Colleagues, and SAPE Members,

During this year we ran a bit of a campaign to encourage members to renew their membership fees for the period of 2023-2026 with some success. However, membership has somewhat decreased due to unpaid fees. Currently our Society has 48 active (paying) members, who are listed on our SAPE- homepage. If you wish to renew your membership or become a new member, please contact our secretary Vanesa De Pietri (sape.secretary@gmail.com) or our treasurer Adam Smith (paleobirdsmith@gmail.com). Dues and/or donations can be paid via PayPal (find instructions on our SAPE-homepage). Please be aware that only active members will be allowed to vote during the next Stated SAPE Business Meeting in 2026 in Christchurch and that – following our bylaws - only those members who have belonged to the Society continuously for a minimum of four years are eligible for office in the subsequent Executive council (2026-2029). As a reminder, our society's ability to provide support for young researchers to present their research at our next meeting via the

Cécile Mourer-Chauviré travel grant for students relies entirely on your membership dues and donations. Thank you for your support.

Work on the Geobios edition containing the proceedings of our last SAPE meeting in 2023 in Málaga is coming to an end; for an update of the publication status of the volume see the statement below by the guest editor Francisco "Kiko" Serrano.

And we are slowly starting to prepare for our next SAPE meeting in Christchurch in 2026, an update on the upcoming meeting by the organizers is also provided below.

I hope you have had a successful year with exciting projects and new discoveries. Enjoy the news from our members from all around the world below, highlighting their current projects and most recent output in scientific articles, books and popular papers.

Ursula Göhlich
President

11TH SAPE MEETING IN 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, so 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 have now narrowed down the dates for the meeting in 2026, but we are still awaiting confirmation

from the venue. It will likely take place in late October (so after the IOC in Mexico and probably before the SVP Meeting). We hope to have all this information early next year when we will be sending out our first circular.

(Vanessa De Pietri)

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 10TH SAPE MEETING

The publication of the Proceedings of the 10th International Meeting of the SAPE has been delayed by a few months from the originally planned date. The Proceedings volume will contain 13 research articles that have undergone a peer review process. Nine papers have been accepted so far and are in different stages of the editing process. The corrected proofs of some of them are already available in the page of Geobios (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/special-issue/10N82DLSH3T>). The four other articles are still in the last stage of the review process.

According with deadlines from the editorial office, the publication of the Proceedings is planned for the first issue of Geobios in 2025 (journal's volume 88). So, we are close to getting it. Thanks again to authors and reviewers that have contributed to make the Proceedings an outstanding scientific piece.

Francisco J. Serrano

Editor of the Proceedings of the 10th International Meeting of the SAPE

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 September 30th, 2023, through October 1st of 2024 generated \$1165.44 (USD). Expenditures over the last year were limited to website hosting service fees (~\$160 USD). The current bank balance of The SAPE stands at

\$9,724.22 USD, and will allow us to continue offering 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

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. This includes a new penguin skeleton from the Antarctic Eocene and several specimens from the Upper Cretaceous of Seymour and Vega islands, collaborating with Ph.D. student FACUNDO IRAZOQUI and DR. ARIANA PAULINA CARABAJAL. Other projects involve materials from the Neogene of Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, and Colombia, in collaboration with colleagues from these countries.

One of her students, Alejandra PIRO has completed the manuscript for her Ph.D. on the anatomy and taxonomy of Procellariiformes and is awaiting evaluation of her thesis work. Her other students, MARÍA ALEJANDRA SOSA, LUIS GARAT, and SEBASTIÁN LYONS, are finalizing their projects, and the results will be available soon. A new student, BRUNO QUAGGIA, has joined the working group and is pursuing his Ph.D. under the supervision of CAROLINA and JAVIER GELFO, focusing on the anatomy of the autopodium in birds and mammals.

Additionally, Carolina is a member of the Expert Group on Geoheritage and Geoconservation of the SCAR (Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research). She is also a Professor at the Universidad Nacional de La Plata, teaching Principles of Paleontology (for second year of the degree paleontology students and fifth year education teachers) and Vertebrate Paleontology (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 birds and early bird evolution. Particularly, published works include Pleistocene birds from Argentina and Ecuador, and the occurrence of basal ornithurines in South America. The PhD student G. ÁLVAREZ HERRERA is currently working on several topics on the anatomy of *Vegavis iaai*, and its implications on the early evolution of Anseriformes, Galliformes and Neoaves. S. ROZADILLA concluded his PhD thesis on palaeognath classification and evolution and is currently working on the anatomy of Enantiornithines birds. The PhD G. LO COCO is working on several new contributions regarding muscular reconstruction and forelimb movement in the non-avian dinosaur/bird transition. F. AGNOLÍN is currently interested in several topics regarding palaeobiogeography. He published a book on this topic mostly focused on mammalian evidence that contradicts the "Splendid Isolation" traditional model. Works in progress include palaeobiogeographical analyses on past South American avifaunas.

Using different approaches and methodological tools in order to understand the development, morphology and evolution of extant and extinct Neornithes, the Avian Biomorphodynamics Research Group (ABREG) constituted by CONICET (National Scientific and Technical Research Council, Argentina) researchers CLAUDIA TAMBUSSI, FEDERICO "DINO" DEGRANGE, MARÍA MANUELA DEMMEL FERREIRA and MILAGROS TORRES ETCHEGORRY (Research Center on Earth Sciences - CICTERRA- National University of Córdoba) in Córdoba, and RICARDO DE MENDOZA, CLAUDIO G. BARBEITO and JULIETA CARRIL (Laboratory of Histology and Descriptive, Experimental and Comparative Embryology -LHYEDEC-

Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, National University of La Plata) in Buenos Aires, works on several topics on paleobiology and evolution of South American and Antarctic birds. The main research carried out focuses on the study of the biomechanical disparity in different bird skulls (i.e., parrots, terror birds, nightjars, and birds of prey), macroevolutionary patterns of the musculoskeletal system of birds, and the analysis of brain morphology/disparity in stem-Anseriformes, in the teratorn *Argentavis*, as well as in fossil Passeriformes. Additional research includes the description of a new specimen of a terror bird coming from Colombia, the influence of atmospheric pressure reduction in the extinction of giant flying birds, and the description of fossil specimens of an eagle and other birds from the Pliocene of northern Argentina. Papers and activities of the Avian Biomorphodynamics Research Group can be followed in Instagram and X as @avianbiomorpho.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., & JONES, W. (2024): Insights on the oldest terror bird (Aves, Phorusrhacidae) from the Eocene of Argentina. – *Historical Biology*, 1–9. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08912963.2024.2304592>.

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., & JONES, W. (2024): Were terror birds the apex continental predators of Antarctica? New findings in the early Eocene of Seymour Island. – *Palaeontologia Electronica*, 27(1):a13. <https://doi.org/10.26879/1340> palaeo-electronica.org/content/2024/5162-eocene-cariamiformes-from-antarctica

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., & PICASSO, M. (2023): About the alleged record of the Rheidae *Diogenornis* in the Cenozoic of Argentina: new interpretations. – *Historical Biology*, 35(9): 1515-1521. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08912963.2022.2098489>

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., & SOTO ACUÑA, S. (2023) The tiniest penguin cranium (Aves, Spheniscidae) from the late Miocene of Bahía Inglesa Formation, Atacama Desert (Chile). – *Comptes Rendus Palevol*, 22 (13): 233-244. <https://doi.org/10.5852/cr-palevol2023v22a13>

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., GARCÍA, R., PÉREZ, L., & MÁRQUEZ, G. (2023): Neoichnology of endolithic lichens in fossil bones and teeth. – *Historical Biology*, 35(7): 1175-1185. DOI: 10.1080/08912963.2022.2084693

ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., IRAZOQUI, F., BONA, P., & PAULINA CARABAJAL, A. (2024): Review of the Cretaceous avian diversity of Antarctica: a changing scenario for the evolution of early Neornithine birds. – *Special Volume Advances in Polar Science* (1): 1 -13. DOI: 10.12429/j.advps.2023.0025

AGNOLIN, F. (2024): Splendid Isolation Revisited: The Entente Cordiale Model. In *History of Cenozoic Mammals from South America: A New Model* (pp. 177-238). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland.

AGNOLIN, F.L., ÁLVAREZ HERRERA, G.P., & TOMASSINI, R. (2024): Pleistocene record of *Chloephaga* Eyton, 1838 (Anseriformes: Anatidae) in the Argentine Pampas, with the description of a new species. – *Comptes Rendus Palevol*, 23(18): 241-255.

AGNOLIN, F.L., & ÁLVAREZ HERRERA, G.P. (2024): Mesozoic birds from Southern Patagonia shed light on the Early

- Antarctic Avifauna. – Ameghiniana doi: 10.5710/AMGH.29.07.2024.3605
- AGNOLÍN, F.L., ÁLVAREZ HERRERA, G.P., & CHAFRAT, P. (2024): Nuevos ejemplares de *Patagorhacos terrificus* Agnolín y Chafrat, 2015 (Aves) y sus implicancias sobre la filogenia y evolución de los Phorusrhacidae. – Pe APA 24-(R4), R3.
- ÁLVAREZ HERRERA, G.P., ROZADILLA, S., AGNOLÍN, F.L., MOTTA, M., MANABE, M., TSUIHIJI, T., & NOVAS, F.E. (2023): Primer registro de Hesperornithiformes para el Cretácico (Maastrichtiano; Formación Chorrillo) de América del Sur. – Reunión de Comunicaciones de la Asociación Paleontológica Argentina 2023, R12.
- BERTELLI, S., GIANNINI, N. P., GARCÍA-LÓPEZ, D. A., DERACO, V., BABOT, J., DEL PAPA, C., ARMELLA, M. A., HERRERA, C. & MAYR, G. (2024): The first Eocene bird from Northwestern Argentina. – Publicación Electrónica de la Asociación Paleontológica Argentina, 24(2): 78–89.
- DE MENDOZA, R.S.; DEGRANGE, F.J. & TAMBUSSI, C.P. (2024): An assessment of the anseriform affinities of “*Telmabates*” *howardae*. – Journal of South American Earth Sciences 135. DOI: 10.1016/j.jsames.2024.104786
- DE MENDOZA, R.S.; CARRIL, J.; DEGRANGE, F.J. & TAMBUSSI, C.P. (2024): A specialized generalist: swimming and diving traits in coots (Rallidae, Fulica) and their evolutionary convergence with other diving birds. – Scientific Reports, 14: 13966. DOI: 10.1038/s41598-024-64853-4
- DEGRANGE, F.J.; BONINI, R.A.; GEORGIEFF, S.M. & IBAÑEZ, L.M. (2023): A new fossil Vultur (Aves, Cathartiformes) from the Early Pliocene of Catamarca province, Argentina. – Historical Biology. DOI: 10.1080/08912963.2023.2288612
- DEGRANGE, F.J.; COOKE, S.B.; ORTIZ-PABON, L.G.; PELEGRIN, J.S.; PERDOMO, C.A.; SALAS-GISMONDI, R. & LINK, A. (In press): A gigantic new terror bird (Cariamiformes, Phorusrhacidae) from Middle Miocene tropical environments of La Venta in northern South America. – Papers in Palaeontology. DOI:10.1002/spp2.1601
- DEMME FERREIRA, M.M.; DEGRANGE, F.J. & TIRAO, G.A. (2024): Macroevolutionary and ecological aspects of New World suboscines (Aves, Passeriformes, Tyrannidae) brain morphology. – Journal of Comparative Neurology. DOI: 10.1002/cne.25617
- LO COCO, G. E., AGNOLÍN, F. L., & ROMÁN CARRIÓN, J. L. (2024): New records of Pleistocene birds of prey from Ecuador. – Journal of Ornithology, 1-15.
- PICASSO, M., & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2023): Hindlimb bones texture through postnatal ages of *Rhea americana* (Aves: Palaeognathae). – Anatomia, Histologia, Embryologia, 53 (1): 1-5. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ahe.13004>
- SOSA, M.A., & ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2024): Vertebral formula and numerical variations in the spine of the Antarctic and Southern South American penguins (Aves: Sphenisciformes). – Vertebrate Zoology, 74: 209-219
- TAMBUSSI, C.P.; DEGRANGE, F.J. & GONZÁLEZ RUIZ, L. (2024): An extinct Owl (Aves: Strigidae) from the Middle Miocene of Patagonia and a review of the south American fossil record of Strigiformes. – Historical Biology, 36: 644-649. DOI: 10.1080/08912963.2023.2180738
- BOOK REVIEW
- ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., & GELFO, J.N. (2024): The geology and geomorphology of Seymour Island (Marambio), Antarctica. (Book Review). – Andean Geology, 51 (3): 559-561. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5027/andgeoV51n3-3761>
- CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS
- ARIAS N., CARRIL J., NETRI C. & BARBEITO C. G. (2024): Técnica de necropsia aviar: haciendo foco en la eficiencia y en la bioseguridad. Simposio: Herramientas metodológicas en estudios de biomorfodinámica aviana. – Libro de Resúmenes, 57. Reunión Argentina de Ornitología (RAO). Aves Argentinas, Miramar de Ansenúza, Provincia de Córdoba, Argentina.
- BOSTELMANN, J. E., SOTO ACUÑA, S., JONES, W., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., UGALDE, R., BOLOMEY, J., VARGAS, A., OYARZÚN, J. L. (2024) Chilean “Terror birds” (Australaves, Cariamiformes, Phorusrhacidae). – III Congreso Chileno de Paleontología, Región de Atacama, 25 al 28 de septiembre de 2024.
- CARRIL J, DE MENDOZA R. S., DEGRANGE F. J. & TAMBUSSI C. P. (2024): Análisis de Redes Anatómicas (AnNA) aplicado al sistema músculoesquelético de Aves. Herramientas metodológicas en estudios de biomorfodinámica aviana. – Libro de Resúmenes, 57. Reunión Argentina de Ornitología (RAO). Aves Argentinas, Miramar de Ansenúza, Provincia de Córdoba, Argentina.
- DEGRANGE, F.J. La aplicación de finite element analysis en el estudio de la ecología trófica de los vertebrados fósiles. – Libro de Resúmenes 37JAPV: 2. Jornadas Argentinas de Paleontología de Vertebrados. Corrientes, Provincia de Corrientes, Argentina.
- DEGRANGE F. J. (2024): El uso del Análisis de Elementos Finitos (FEA) en el estudio de la ecología trófica de las aves. Simposio: Herramientas metodológicas en estudios de biomorfodinámica aviana. – Libro de Resúmenes, 59. Reunión Argentina de Ornitología (RAO). Aves Argentinas, Miramar de Ansenúza, Provincia de Córdoba, Argentina
- DEMME FERREIRA M. M. (2024): Estudio comparativo de la morfología endocraneal de *Cinclodes major* y *Cinclodes fuscus* (Passeriformes, Furnariidae). Simposio: Herramientas metodológicas en estudios de biomorfodinámica aviana. – Libro de Resúmenes, 58. Reunión Argentina de Ornitología (RAO). Aves Argentinas, Miramar de Ansenúza, Provincia de Córdoba, Argentina.
- GARAT, L. TALEVI, M., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. 2023. Diferencias paleohistológicas atribuidas al sexo en pingüinos del Eoceno de Antártida. – RCAPA, General Roca, 22 al 24 de noviembre de 2023.
- IRAZOQUI, F., PAULINA-CARABAJAL, A., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., BONA, P. (2023): Reconstrucción del primer molde endocraneano de una stem-Neornithes cretácica. Descripción y comparación con otras aves mesozoicas. – RCAPA, General Roca, 22 al 24 de noviembre de 2023.
- IRAZOQUI, F., PAULINA CARABAJAL, A., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C. (2023): Usos de tomografías computadas en paleontología: el caso de aves cretácicas de la Península Antártica. – Primer Workshop Argentino de tomografías de materiales, 25 al 27 de octubre de 2023. Y-Tec. Berisso.
- NETRI C., CARRIL J., ARIAS N. & BARBEITO C. G. (2024): Técnicas histológicas: potenciales aplicaciones en el

diagnóstico veterinario, la conservación y la investigación en Aves. Simposio: Herramientas metodológicas en estudios de biomorfodinámica aviana. – Libro de Resúmenes, 58. Reunión Argentina de Ornitología (RAO). Aves Argentinas, Miramar de Ansenusa, Provincia de Córdoba, Argentina.

- NETRI C., BARBEITO C. G., ARIAS N., BADURA E. & CARRIL J. (2024): Estructura histológica del oviducto de la Cotorra *Myiopsitta monachus* (Psittaciformes): evidencia de la presencia de túbulos espermiáticos. – Libro de Resúmenes, 189. Reunión Argentina de Ornitología (RAO). Aves Argentinas, Miramar de Ansenusa, Provincia de Córdoba, Argentina
- PELEGRIN, J., ACOSTA HOSPITALECHE, C., LINK, A., COOKE, S., CORTÉS, D., & JARAMILLO, C. (2023): Ensamblaje de

Aves del Mioceno medio de La Venta (Desierto de la Tatacoa), Colombia: implicaciones paleoecológicas y paleobiogeográficas. – II Congreso Colombiano de Paleontología, 15 al 17 de noviembre 2023, Universidad del Rosario en Bogotá Colombia.

- TORRES ETCHEGORRY, M.; DEGRANGE, F.J.; DEMMEL FERREIRA, M.M.; BARASOAIN, D.; LUNA, C.A.; QUIÑONES, S.; MIÑO-BOILINI, A.; CONTRERAS, S.; CUADRELLI, F.; CUARANTA, P.; CANDELA, A. & ZURITA, A. Morfología endocraneal de un águila fósil (Aves, Accipitriformes) del Plioceno de Jujuy, Argentina. – Libro de Resúmenes 37JAPV: 24-25. Jornadas Argentinas de Paleontología de Vertebrados. Corrientes, Provincia de Corrientes, Argentina.

AUSTRALIA

Research on avian palaeontology at Flinders University continued to prosper through the 2023–24 year. Phoebe McInerney was awarded her PhD on *Genyornis* and published her mammoth paper on the skull morphology of *Genyornis* in *Historical Biology*. She is extending and revising her final PhD chapter for publication on the vesicular apparatus of dromornithids. In a typical example of Murphy's Law, a Flinders team managed another expedition to Lake Callabonna (South Australia) in August with folk from the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum (Winton, NSW) where the aim was to collect some specimens for new galleries they are planning. We were very successful collecting two near complete skeletons of *Diprotodon*, a *Diprotodon* trackway, and 2 *Genyornis* skeletons. One of these is rather extraordinary with erosion having removed perhaps the top 25 cm of the skeleton but the remainder preserves the articulated skull and first 15 vertebrae, one side of the sternum, with articulated wing and ribs and both legs. We look forward to completing the preparation and description of this fantastic specimen, which reveals several hitherto unknown morphologies.

The Flinders bird team also visited Alcoota in mid-2024 with the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. This late Miocene site north-east of Alice Springs, has previously revealed a diverse fauna with several small to medium, predominantly aquatic-adapted, avian species and three species of dromornithid. This successful excavation recovered several fossils of interest including a currently unidentified CMC and many elements from a single individual of *Ibandornis woodburnei*, only the second, and most complete, articulated bird discovered in the Alcoota deposit in more than two decades of excavation. Preparation of this individual will assist in confirming the attribution of fossils to both species of *Ibandornis* found at this location.

Jacob Blokland (PhD candidate) is drawing near the end of his project on phylogenetic relationships and diversity of Australasian Oligo-Miocene rails. Karl Lenser (PhD candidate) is busy collecting data on specimens from the complete avifaunas of Victoria Fossil Cave, Naracoorte (Early-Mid Pleistocene) and Cathedral Cave, Wellington, NSW (Late Pleistocene). Tim Nieder (PhD candidate) is working on the fossil flamingos from Australia. Amelia Cox (BSc Honors) is nearing the end of a project on the pelvic limb morphology of *Genyornis*.

- DE PIETRI, V.L., SCOFIELD, R.P., HAND, S.J., ARCHER, M., TENNYSON, A.J.D., & WORTHY, T.H. (in press): Early Miocene gull-like birds (Charadriiformes: Laridae) from New Zealand. – [SAPE proceedings] *Geobios*.
- DE PIETRI, V.L., SCOFIELD, R.P., HAND, S.J., ARCHER, M., & WORTHY, T.H. (2024): A preliminary assessment of the diversity of passerine birds (Aves, Passeriformes) from the Miocene St Bathans Fauna, New Zealand. – *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, e2400252, DOI: 10.1080/02724634.2024.2400252
- DICKINSON, E.C., & WORTHY, T.H. (2024): Comment (Case 3865) – Support for “Proposed conservation of the original and long-established identity of *Paradisea superba* J.R. Forster, 1781 (currently *Lophorina superba*; Aves Paradisaeidae), with confirmation of the valid neotype designation, by Elliot et al. (see BZN 80(1): 46-52). – *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, 81 (XX December 2024)
- MCINERNEY P.L., BLOKLAND, J.C., & WORTHY, T.H. (2024) Skull morphology of the enigmatic *Genyornis newtoni* Stirling and Zeitz, 1896 (Aves, Dromornithidae), with implications for functional morphology, ecology, and evolution in the context of Galloanserae. – *Historical Biology*, 36(6): 1093–1165, DOI: 10.1080/08912963.2024.2308212.
- GREGORY, S.M.S., SANGSTER, G., WORTHY, T.H. & SCOFIELD, R.P. (2024): II. Falling through the cracks: a family-group name for a clade of hawks and eagles (Accipitridae) including *Morphnus* Dumont, 1816, *Harpia Vieillot*, 1816, *Harpypopsis Salvadori*, 1875 and *Macheiramphus Bonaparte*, 1850. – *Avian Systematics*, 2(II): N5–N17.
- WORTHY, T.H., BUNCE, M., COOPER, A., PHILLIPS, M.J., SCOFIELD, R.P. (2024): The availability of Megalapterygidae, a family-group name for *Megalapteryx*, among New Zealand moa. – *Avian Systematics*, 2(5): 65–67.
- WORTHY, T.H., SCOFIELD, R.P.; DE PIETRI, V., SALISBURY, S.W., SCHWARZHANS, W., HAND, S.J., & ARCHER, M. (online 2024): A synopsis of the Early Miocene St Bathans Fauna from New Zealand. – [SAPE proceedings] *Geobios* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geobios.2024.03.002>
- WU, S.-M.; WORTHY, T.H.; CHUANG, C.-K.; LIN, C.-H. (2023): New Pleistocene bird fossils in Taiwan reveal unexpected seabirds in East Asia. – *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica*, 68 (4): 613–624.

AUSTRIA

URSULA GÖHLICH (Vienna) was mainly occupied by curatorial tasks and duties for the collection of fossil vertebrates at the Natural History Museum in Vienna (NHMW). One of the projects was the 3D-scanning of a series of historical skeleton mounts of Moas in the vp collection carried out by the 3D-team of the NHMW. Hitherto, six historical skeletons (out of 10) are available through <https://sketchfab.com/search?q=Moas+NHMW&type=models>.

Besides some other studies on fossil (non-avian) vertebrates, Ursula is still investigating an early Miocene marine avifauna from an Austrian site of the former Central Paratethys sea.

BULGARIA

ZLATOZAR BOEV is supervising PhD student MIHAIL ILIEV: on the spatial ecology and migration strategy in the Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis* Pallas, 1769).

BOCHENSKI, Z., TOMEK, T., WERTZ, K., . (2024): Whose bone is this? A manual for the identification of the phalanx proximalis digiti majoris. – Bird Working Group – ICAZ – Proceedings.

. (2024): Birds and people in Medieval Bulgaria: Review of the subfossil record of birds during the First and Second Bulgarian Empires. – 2nd ICAZ Medieval Period Working Group Meeting . Sofia, 02.-06.10.2024. Book of Abstracts, 11.

. (2024): One Hundred and Thirty-Five Years of Ornithology in Bulgaria: The Role of the National Museum of Natural History at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in the Development of Ornithology in Bulgaria—Representatives, Collections and Achievements. – Diversity, 2024, 16, 284. <https://doi.org/10.3390/d16050284>

. (2024): Past distribution of the White-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla* (Linnaeus, 1758)) in Bulgaria – subfossil record. - Comptes rendus de l'Acad emie bulgare des Sciences, 77 (5): 669-674.

., NEDYALKOV, N., GEORGIEV, D., SPASSOV, N. (2024): Late Pleistocene birds and mammals from the Kiliite Cave (Central Stara Planina Mts – Central North Bulgaria) – Geologica Balcanica, 53 (1): 105-115.

MILOŠEVIĆ, S., BOEV, Z., DIMITRIJEVIĆ, V., MIHAILOVIĆ, D. (2023): First Fowls of Europe: evidence for bird exploitation during MIS 8/7 from Velika Balanica cave (Serbia). – In: Marković, S. B., Hrvojević, M. P., Lazić, L. (Editors in Chief). – Natural Resources and Environmental Risks: Towards a Sustainable Future. International Conference. Novi Sad, Serbia. Abstract

BADER, C., DELAPRÉ, A., GÖHLICH, U.B. & HOUSSAYE, A. (2024): Diversity of limb long bone morphology among proboscideans: how to be the biggest one in the family. – Papers in Paleontology, 10(6): e1597

MAYR, G., GÖHLICH, U.B., ROČEK Z., LEMIERRE A., WINKLER, V. & GEORGALIS, G.L. (2023): Reinterpretation of tuberculate cervical vertebrae of Eocene birds as an exceptional anti-predator adaptation against the mammalian “craniocervical killing bite”. – Journal of Anatomy, 244: 402-410. <http://doi.org/10.1111/joa.13980>

Book. Serbian Academy Of Sciences And Arts, p. 41. ISBN 978-86-7031-650-8

PETROVA, V. D., LYUNCHEVA, M., ILIEV, I., YANEVA, M., NIKOLOV, V., VITEZOVIC, S., ZIDAROV, P., MITOV, K., HADZHIPETKOV, I., TANEVA, S., BOEV, Z., FIDANOSKA, A., HRISTOVA, I., MARINOVA, E. (2024): Archaeological excavations at a Late Neolithic pit site near the village of Hadzhidimitrovo, Yambol region. – In: Alexandrov, St. (Ed.). – Archaeological Rescue Excavations along the Trakia Motorway Route, LOT 1 – 4. Part I. Prehistory, Bulged, Sofia, 7-94. (in Bulgarian, English summary).

POPULAR SCIENCE:

. (2023): Mesozoic birds. - Priroda - BAS, 3: 72-78.

. (2023): The Lesser white-fronted goose - an ancient winter guest in our country. – Lov i ribolov, 11: 52-55.

. (2023): The Woodcock - again in the team of breeding birds in our country. – Lov i ribolov, 12: 54-57.

. (2023): The giant rails. - Priroda - BAS, 4: 48-53.

. (2024): Willow and Rock Ptarmigans. They flew away from our lands long ago. – Lov i ribolov, 4: 62-65.

. (2024): The Kardam starling – the most ancient bird in Bulgaria. – Priroda, BAS, 1: 100-105.

. (2024): The Grey partridge - important in the past and today. – Lov i ribolov, 3: 64-67.

. (2024): Eurasian coot - valued more in antiquity as a hunting object. – Lov i ribolov, 5: 66-69.

. (2024): The Turtle dove – desired game from time immemorial. – Lov i ribolov, 7: 66-69.

. (2024): Common quail - our smallest ancient game. – Lov i ribolov, 8: 64-67.

. (2024): Toothed birds. – Priroda, BAS, 2: 96-100.

. (2024): Opposite birds. – Priroda, BAS, 2: 102-107.

FRANCE

Among continuing projects from the preceding year, ANTOINE LOUCHART and colleagues went on working on fossil birds from Saint Helena island (South Atlantic); last summer they obtained funding from the French ANR to continue and extend the project over the next four years; and during summer 2024, the team, also comprising ANAÏS DUHAMEL, JULIAN HUME, JULIEN JOSEPH, PHILIPPE SORREL, and all the colleagues and friends on Saint

Helena (Antoine especially thanks REBECCA CAIRNS-WICKS for her constant help and support there on the island), continued fieldwork with the successful collection of numerous new fossils (quantitatively and qualitatively), new exploration, and great improvement of contextual sedimentological understanding of the sites. The team wishes to continue and extend their research to Ascension Island as soon as 2025.

CÉCILE MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ continued her research on fossil birds. Two papers on material gathered by MARTIN PICKFORD in Namibia have been issued in the Communications of the Geological Survey of Namibia. Fossil birds from the Early Miocene of Namibia are rare but this material cannot be exported for study outside Namibia.

LOUCHART, A. (2024): Jean-Christophe Balouet (12 november 1956–30 march 2021). – *Geobios*, 83: 1–10. Doi: 10.1016/j.geobios.2023.11.001

MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C., PICKFORD, M., MOCKE, H. & NDUUTEPO, A. (2023): Small birds (Psittaculidae,

Galliformes and Passeri) from the early Miocene of Namibia. – *Communications of the Geological Survey of Namibia*, 26: 10–20.

MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C., PICKFORD, M. & SENUT, B. (2023): New remains of *Struthio coppensi*, early Miocene, Namibia. – *Communications of the Geological Survey of Namibia*, 26: 21–33.

MOURER-CHAUVIRÉ, C., BOURDON, E., DUFFAUD, S., LE ROUX, G., & LAURENT, Y. (2024): New avian remains from the early Eocene of La Borie, southern France. – *Geobios*, 83: 61–84. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geobios.2022.10.004>

GERMANY

GERALD MAYR continues to study fossils from the London Clay of Walton-on-the-Naze (UK), and in collaboration with VANESA DE PIETRI, PAUL SCOFIELD, and various other colleagues he is also still involved in the study of Paleocene birds from the Waipara Greensand in New Zealand. Together with Ursula GÖHLICH and other colleagues, he published a study, in which enigmatic avian cervical vertebrae with a tuberculate surface are interpreted as an exceptional anti-predator adaptation against the mammalian craniocervical killing bite.

BERTELLI, S., GIANNINI, N. P., GARCÍA-LÓPEZ, D. A., DERACO, V., BABOT, J., DEL PAPA, C., ARMELLA, M. A., HERRERA, C. & MAYR, G. (2024): The first Eocene bird from Northwestern Argentina. – *Publicación Electrónica de la Asociación Paleontológica Argentina*, 24(2): 78–89.

MAYR, G., GÖHLICH, U.B., ROČEK, Z., LEMIERRE, A., WINKLER, V., AND GEORGALIS, G.L. (2024): Reinterpretation of tuberculate cervical vertebrae of Eocene birds as an exceptional anti-predator adaptation against the mammalian craniocervical killing bite. – *Journal of Anatomy*, 244: 402–410.

MAYR, G. & KITCHENER, A.C. (2024): New fossils of *Eocypselus* and *Primapus* from the British London Clay reveal a high taxonomic and ecological diversity of early Eocene swift-like apodiform birds. – *Ibis*, 166: 1199–1217. doi: 10.1111/ibi.13323.

MAYR, G. & KITCHENER, A.C. (2024): The Picocoraciades (hoopoes, rollers, woodpeckers, and allies) from the

early Eocene London Clay of Walton-on-the-Naze. – *Paläontologische Zeitschrift*, 98: 291–312; doi: 10.1007/s12542-024-00687-9.

MAYR, G. & KITCHENER, A.C. (2024): The non-apodiform Strisores (potoos, nightjars and allied birds) from the early Eocene London Clay of Walton-on-the-Naze. – *Palaeobiodiversity and Palaeoenvironments*; doi: 10.1007/s12549-024-00610-9

MAYR, G. & KITCHENER, A.C. (IN PRESS): Messelornithids and messelornithid-like birds from the early Eocene London Clay of Walton-on-the-Naze (Essex, UK). – *Geobios*, doi: 10.1016/j.geobios.2023.12.011

MAYR, G. & KITCHENER, A.C. (IN PRESS): The galliform birds from the Lower Eocene London Clay of Walton-on-the-Naze (Essex, U.K.): New species suggest faunal connections to Asia. – *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*; doi: 10.1080/02724634.2024.2374305

MAYR, G. & KITCHENER, A.C. (2024): Two distinctive, but difficult-to-classify, avian species and a new trogon (Trogoniformes) from the early Eocene London Clay. – *Neues Jahrbuch für Geologie und Paläontologie, Abhandlungen*; doi: 0.1127/njgpa/2024/1216.

MAYR, G. & KITCHENER, A.C. (2024): A large frigatebird-like tarsometatarsus from the London Clay of Walton-on-the-Naze may shed light on the affinities of a poorly known early Eocene seabird taxon. – *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica* 69 (3): 523–528.

HUNGARY

During the past year, JENŐ (EUGEN) KESSLER and his PhD student IDA HORVÁTH have been busy with the identification and publication of the Neogene-age scattered bird material of the Carpathian Basin. This was achieved and two papers were published, while two were accepted for publication. In the coming months we will concentrate on writing the doctoral dissertation.

HORVÁTH, I. (2023): Description of representatives of the family Phasianidae from Mátraszőlös 3 (Nógrád

county, Hungary) by means of recent finds of Badenian age. – *Ornis Hungarica*, 2023. 31(2): 125–137. DOI: 10.2478/orhu-0024 2023

HORVÁTH, I., FUTÓ, J., & KESSLER, J. (E). (2024): *Phalacrocorax bakonyiensis* n. sp., a new species of cormorant from the Late Miocene of Hungary. – *Ornis Hungarica* 2024. 32(1): 222–230. DOI: 10.2478/orhu-2024-0016

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 parrot remains from the Cradle of Humankind ended in the description of a new species of *Agapornis* parrot, just published in the SAPE volume of *Geobios*. The study of the birds from Langebaanweg was focused on the Apodidae and Accipitridae, the study of which is almost completed, and other groups will be analyzed in the next months, including the Indicatoridae in collaboration with A. MANEGOLD and A. LOUCHART.

Other projects on fossil birds from Italy are still going on, including the Miocene of Gargano. In fact, we received new material from the Miocene of Gargano including a lot of bird bones that will be analyzed in the near future. We also worked on the Pleistocene locality of Moletto (Piedmont, Northern Italy) and on the curatorial processes on the fossil collections in Torino.

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

ILAHIANE, L., COLOMINAS-CIURÒ, R., BIZE, P., BOANO, G., CUCCO, M., FERRI, M., MASOERO, G., MEIER, C. M., PAVIA, M., RAMELLO, G., VOELKER, G., PELLEGRINO, I. (2023): Molecular investigation on infection by haemosporidians in three Western Palearctic species of swift (Apodidae) and their ectoparasitic louse flies. – *Parasitology Research*, 122: 1787–1794. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00436-023-07874-8>

PAVIA, M., BRAGA, J., DELFINO, M., KGASI, L., MANEGOLD, A., STEININGER, C., ZIPFEL, B., VAL, A. (in press): A new species of Lovebird (Aves, Psittaculidae, *Agapornis*) from the Plio-Pleistocene of the Cradle of Humankind (Gauteng, South Africa). – *Geobios*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geobios.2024.05.006>

RAMELLO, G., DELFINO, M., MORI, E., VIVIANO, A., PAVIA, G., CARNEVALE, G., PAVIA, M. (2023): Holocene vertebrate assemblages provide the first evidence for the presence of the barn owl (Tytonidae, *Tyto alba*) on Socotra Island (Yemen). – *Geobios*, 83: 85-98.

PINERO, P., LÓPEZ-GARCÍA, J. M., BLAIN, H.-A., CARNEVALE, G., FURIÓ, M., GIUNTELLI, P., LUZI, E., MACALUSO, L., MARRAMÀ, G., PAL, S., PAVIA, G., PAVIA, M., PEZZETTI, C., ROCCA, M., SÁNCHEZ-BANDERA, C., VILLA, A., DELFINO, M. (2024): Multiproxy approach to reconstruct the climate and environment of a new late Middle Pleistocene vertebrate site in northwestern Italy. – *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* 634: 111935.

WALTER, D. J., MARRAMÀ, G., PAVIA, M., CARNEVALE, G., DELFINO, M. (2024): A shark turns into an undetermined crocodylian: the case of *Acanthias bicarinatus* Sismonda, 1849. – *Bollettino della Società Paleontologica Italiana*, 63, 83-87.

NEW ZEALAND

In Christchurch, VANESA DE PIETRI (University of Canterbury, UC) and PAUL SCOFIELD (Canterbury Museum), continue their research on the Paleocene birds from the Waipara Gorge, with new descriptions coming soon. Ted Spinks (UC) is about to finish his MSc thesis under the supervision of Catherine Reid (UC), Vanesa, and Sebastian Naehrer (GNS) on the sedimentology, stratigraphy and Geochemistry of the Waipara Greensand. Vanesa was also busy with the development of a new course on vertebrate palaeontology (which was a lot of fun!). Paul has been working hard on the redevelopment of the new Canterbury Museum, planning new visiting experiences.

Work on the Miocene St Bathans fauna from central Otago continues alongside TREVOR WORTHY, and there's been a few publications on this fauna. ABI CRANE (PhD student, University of Southampton, UK), is undertaking a three-month research placement at UC, focusing on the St Bathans Fauna.

DE PIETRI, V.L., SCOFIELD, R.P., HAND, S.J., ARCHER, M., TENNYSON, A.J.D., & WORTHY, T.H. (IN PRESS): Early Miocene gull-like birds (Charadriiformes: Laridae) from New Zealand. – [SAPE proceedings] *Geobios*.

DE PIETRI, V.L., SCOFIELD, R.P., HAND, S.J., ARCHER, M., & WORTHY, T.H. (2024): A preliminary assessment of the diversity of passerine birds (Aves, Passeriformes)

from the Miocene St Bathans Fauna, New Zealand. – *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, e2400252, DOI: 10.1080/02724634.2024.2400252

GREGORY, S.M.S., SANGSTER, G., WORTHY, T.H. & SCOFIELD, R.P. (2024): II. Falling through the cracks: a family-group name for a clade of hawks and eagles (Accipitridae) including *Morphnus* Dumont, 1816, *Harpia* Vieillot, 1816, *Harpypopsis* Salvadori, 1875 and *Macheiramphus* Bonaparte, 1850. – *Avian Systematics*, 2(II), pp. N5–N17.

YOUNG, G. R. A., SCOFIELD, P., REID, C. M., MANNERING, A., & CRAMPTON, J. S. (2024): A platypterygiid ichthyosaur from the Cenomanian of central New Zealand. – *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02724634.2024.2408391>

WORTHY, T.H., BUNCE, M., COOPER, A., PHILLIPS, M.J., SCOFIELD, R.P. (2024): The availability of Megalapterygidae, a family-group name for *Megalapteryx*, among New Zealand moa. – *Avian Systematics*, 2(5): 65–67.

WORTHY, T.H., SCOFIELD, R.P.; DE PIETRI, V., SALISBURY, S.W., SCHWARZHANS, W., HAND, S.J., & ARCHER, M. (2024): A synopsis of the Early Miocene St Bathans Fauna from New Zealand. – [SAPE proceedings] *Geobios* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geobios.2024.03.002>

POLAND

PIOTR JADWISZCZAK (University of Białystok) continues his research on Eocene penguins from Seymour Island. His scientific investigations, conducted in collaboration with colleagues from Sweden, Thomas Mörs and Ashley Krüger, employ non-destructive methods to gain insight into the internal structure of fossils.

JADWISZCZAK, P., KRÜGER, A. & MÖRS, T. (2024): Fossil and modern penguin tarsometatarsi: cavities, vascularity, and resilience. – *Integrative Zoology*, 0: 1–17 (Early View). <https://doi.org/10.1111/1749-4877.12852>

RUSSIA

NIKITA ZELENKOV and NATALIA VOLKOVA continues their research on fossil birds from various regions of Eurasia and Cuba, trying to save paleornithological traditions in the changing social and political environment of the country. They collaborate actively with paleontologists from other regions of Russia to promote scientific interest in fossil birds. In 2024, the Borissiak Paleontological institute (Moscow) conjointly with the Institute of Paleontology (Ulaanbaatar) organized a field trip to Neogene bird localities of Mongolia, as part of the Joint Russian-Mongolian Paleontological Expedition. This was the first joint Russian-Mongolian expedition in Mongolia focused on fossil birds since 1990th. VARVARA GORBATCHEVA joined the paleontological department at the Paleontological institute in Moscow and is currently working on fossil diurnal birds of prey. A monograph on fossil quails and allies by NIKITA ZELENKOV will be published in December, 2024.

GORBATCHEVA, V.O. & ZELENKOV, N.V. (2024): A vulture of the genus *Torgos* (Aves: Accipitridae) in the Late Pleistocene of Azerbaijan – *Paleontological Journal*, 58: 475-482.

VOLKOVA, N.V. (2024): The oldest swallow (Aves: Passeriformes: Hirundinidae) from the upper Lower Miocene of Southeastern Siberia – *Doklady Biological Sciences*, 518: 261-265.

ZELENKOV, N.V. (2023): Unexpected find of a buttonquail (Aves: Charadriiformes: Turnicidae) in the Lower Pleistocene of Crimea – *Doklady Biological Sciences*, 513, suppl. 1: S1-S4.

ZELENKOV, N.V. (2024): Grouse (Aves: Phasianidae: Tetraonini) from the Early Pleistocene of Crimea, and the taxonomic status of *Lagopus atavus* – *Paleontological Journal*, 58: 112-123.

ZELENKOV, N.V. (2024): Gray partridges (Phasianidae: Genera *Perdix* and *Enkuriia* gen. nov.) from the Early Pleistocene of Crimea and remarks on the evolution of the genus *Perdix* – *Paleontological Journal*, 58: 335-352.

ZELENKOV, N.V. (2024): Cuban Macaw *Ara tricolor* in the Upper Pleistocene of western Cuba – *Doklady Biological Sciences*, 516: 32-35.

ZELENKOV, N.V. (2024): A remarkable diversity of waterfowl (Aves: Anseriformes) from the upper Eocene and lower Oligocene of Kazakhstan – *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 43: e2374306.

ZELENKOV, N.V. (2024): The oldest finds of the genera *Melanitta*, *Marmaronetta*, and other ducks (Aves: Anatidae) from the Lower Pleistocene of the Crimea – *Paleontological Journal*, 58: 593-603.

ZELENKOV, N.V. (2024): The diversity and evolution of quails and allies (Aves: Galliformes: Phasianidae: Coturnicini) in the Miocene - Early Pleistocene of Eurasia – *Paleontological Journal*, 58 (10). In the press.

ZELENKOV, N.V., MASLINTSYNA, M.P., MALYSHKINA, T.P., MASLENNIKOV, A.A., SYROMYTNIKOVA, E.V. & GIMRANOV, D.O. (2024): A Large Marine Bird (Aves: Procellariiformes) from the Eocene of Western Siberia – *Doklady Biological Sciences*, 518: 230-233.

ZELENKOV, N., PALASTROVA, E., MARTYNOVICH, N., KLEMENTIEV, A., SIZOV, A. & VOLKOVA, N. (2023): A tiny duck (*Sibirionetta formozovi* sp. nov.), a giant grey partridge (*Titanoperdix felixi* gen. et sp. nov.), a new rail (*Porzana payevskiyi* sp. nov.), and other birds from the Early Pleistocene of Baikalian Siberia – *Biological Communications*, 68: 261-272.

SPAIN

FRANCISCO “KIKO” SERRANO got a position as Associate Professor at the University of Málaga, a task that occupied many months of work, and also continues as Research Associate at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (CA, U.S.A). He has been working on editing the special volume of the 10th SAPE Meeting, which after a delay of a few months will be published in the first issue of *Geobios* in 2025. He also is starting a project funded by the Spanish Government to study the evolution of active flight and its control in living and extinct birds. In addition, Francisco Serrano is supervising Mireia Costa and Javier Castro in their PhD projects.

JAVIER CASTRO TEROL finished a MSc on ‘Paleobiology and fossil record’ at the University of Barcelona. Currently, he is starting a PhD on the evolution of flapping

flight supervised by Francisco Serrano at the University of Málaga. His first scientific article on the microCT study of the enantiornithine *Iberomesornis romerali* will be published in the special volume of the Proceedings of the 10th SAPE Meeting in *Geobios*.

JUNYA WATANABE has been working as a postdoctoral researcher at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona since December 2023. He has spent some time doing morphometric and quantitative genetic analyses of fruit fly wing morphology, and is trying to wrap up the project in the coming several months before the grant expires. As of writing this, he is also working to revise his manuscript for the proceedings volume of the last SAPE meeting. It is a focused review on the diversity of wing-propelled

divers, compiling records of the occurrence of underwater locomotion behaviors from the literature.

CHIAPPE L. M., SERRANO F. J., ABRAMOWICZ S., GOHLICH U. (2023): Flight Performance of the Early Cretaceous Bird *Confuciusornis sanctus*: Evidence from an Exceptionally Preserved Fossil. – Spanish Journal of Paleontology 38 (2), 101-122.

CASTRO-TEROL J., PÉREZ-RAMOS A, O'CONNOR J. K., SANZ J. L., SERRANO F. J. (2025): Micro-CT reconstruction reveals new information about the phylogenetic

position and locomotion of the Early Cretaceous bird *Iberomesornis romerali*. In: Proceedings of the 10th International Meeting of the Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution (FJ Serrano, ed.). – Geobios 88, in press.

WATANABE, J. (2024): Distribution theories for genetic line of least resistance and evolvability measures. – Journal of Evolutionary Biology, voae049. doi: [10.1093/jeb/voae049](https://doi.org/10.1093/jeb/voae049).

SWEDEN

PER ERICSON continues to work on the systematics of birds using primarily molecular data 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). Recently he has taken up an old project in which he studies exploitation of wild birds during the Viking Age, based on the huge material of archaeological bird bones from the town Birka in Sweden. Besides the regular species-identifications etc., several bones will also be subject to genetic and isotopic analyses to reveal prehistoric trade patterns.

ERICSON, P.G.P. & QU, Y. (2024): An evaluation of the usefulness of morphological characters to infer higher-level relationships in birds by mapping them to a molecular phylogeny. – Biological Journal of the Linnean Society. doi:10.1093/biolinnean/blae070

FUCHS, J., ERICSON, P.G.P., IRESTEDT, M. (2024): Genomic insights into the evolutionary and demographic histories of the extinct Hoopoe Starling (*Fregilupus varius*). – Ibis, 166: 1073-1080. doi:10.1111/ibi.13300

IRESTEDT, M., THÖRN, F., ERICSON, P.G.P., VAN GROUW, H., RED'KIN, Y.A., HELLQUIST, A., JOHANSSON, F. & NYLANDER, J.A.A. (2023): A crowd sourced genomic project to assess hybrid content in a rare avian vagrant (Azure Tit *Cyanistes cyanus* (Pallas, 1770)).

– Avian Research, 14. doi: 10.1016/j.avrs.2023.100130

JIANG, Z., ZANG, W., ERICSON, P.G.P., SONG, G., WU, S., FENG, S., DROVETSKI, S., LIU, G., ZHANG, D., SAITOH, T., ALSTRÖM, P., EDWARDS, S., LEI, F. & QU, Y. (2024): Gene flow and an anomaly zone complicate phylogenomic inference in a rapidly radiated avian family (Prunellidae). – BMC Biology, 22: 1-19. doi: 10.1186/s12915-024-01848-7

KING, B.F., SANGSTER, G., TRAINOR, C.R., IRESTEDT, M., PRAWIRADILAGA, D.M. & ERICSON, P.G.P. (2024): A new species of nightjar (*Caprimulgus*) from Timor and Wetar, Lesser Sunda Islands, Wallacea. – Ibis, 166: 1241-1263. doi: 10.1111/ibi.13340

MÜLLER, I.A., THÖRN, F., RAJAN, S., ERICSON, P.G.P., DUMBACHER, J.P., MAIAH, G., BLOM, M.P.K., JØNSSON, K.A. & IRESTEDT, M. (2024): Species-specific dynamics may cause deviations from general biogeographical predictions – evidence from a population genomics study of a New Guinean endemic passerine bird family (Melampittidae). – PLoS One. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0293715

REEVE, A.H., KENNEDY, J.D., PUJOLAR, J.M., PETERSEN, B., BLOM, M.P.K., ALSTRÖM, P., HARYOKO, T., ERICSON, P.G.P., IRESTEDT, M., NYLANDER, J.A.A. & JØNSSON, K.A. (2023): The formation of the Indo-Pacific montane avifauna. – Nature Communications, 14, 8215. doi: 10.1038/s41467-023-43964-y

UNITED KINGDOM

DANIEL FIELD is Strickland Curator of Ornithology and Professor of Vertebrate Palaeontology at the University of Cambridge. Since last year he is pleased to share that Klara Widrig successfully defended her PhD on palaeognath evolution in August and has moved to a Peter Buck postdoctoral fellowship at the Smithsonian to work with Helen James. Georgina Scott and Christian Voiculescu-Holvad successfully defended their MPhil theses on early anseriform evolution and Danish Maastrichtian mosasaurs, respectively. Daniel is pleased to welcome back Dr Lizzy Steell and Dr Oliver Demuth as Cambridge Junior Research Fellows (Cambridge college-based postdoctoral fellowships) where they will resume research on passerine evolution and wing biomechanics, respectively. A major highlight this year was co-curating *Birds: Brilliant and Bizarre*, a temporary exhibit on bird evolution, behaviour and conservation at the Natural History Museum, London.

When things should be slowing down, they are speeding up! JULIAN PENDER HUME has had another busy

year of fieldwork, including three trips to Hawaii, further cave work in Itampolo, Madagascar, with a return trip in late October 2024, and a return to St Helena in August 2024 with Antoine Louchart. The trip was a great success and, amongst others, resulted in the discovery of a partial but articulated St Helena Hoopoe *Upupa antaios*, the first known. The excavations also unearthed new fossil land snails and a paper is in review, the first snail publication for JPH. In June, JPH visited Mauritius for the first time in five years, and cave excavations revealed some wonderfully preserved bird material, including a cuckoo. Work is in progress with this discovery. Writing scientific papers has had to take a back seat somewhat, as JPH is working on a third edition of *Extinct Birds* due late 2025, with many of the entries rewritten and with 18 pages of colour plates, and a new work, *Extinct Birds of Ice Age North America*, co-authored with Michael Walter, due late 2026. JPH is writing most of the text and illustrating every known North American fossil species, so it is a big ask in terms of time and energy.

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In 2023 Dr. PEI-CHEN KUO (formerly Cambridge, Field lab) joined the lab, continuing his work on avian quadrates. ALEX CLARK has just begun the second year of his PhD and recently described two new species of Hell Creek enantiornithines, *Magnusavis ekalakaensis* and *Avisaurus darwini*. Former postdoc Dr. YOSEF KIAT has taken a permanent position as a senior lecturer at Tel Aviv University and as curator of ornithology at The Steinhardt Museum of Natural History. The entire lab has been busy working on the 13th/Chicago *Archaeopteryx*, arguably the best exemplar of this taxon recovered to date. The lab traveled to China early this year visiting the IVPP and STM and projects from this visit are already being published, including Yosef's description of a sequential molt in *Confuciusornis*.

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