7th Bird Working Group Meeting

The 7th Bird Working Group Meeting took place in Iasi, Romania, at the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University, on August 27th – September 1st. The conference hosted near upon thirty participants representing 16 countries (Argentina, Austria, Croatia, Denmark, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United State of America).

The conference was organized by Luminita Bejenaru, Simina Stanc, Constantin Ion, Vasile Cotiuga, and with the help given by the students Monica Groza, Andreea Vornicu and Lucian Fasola.

The conference began with the “Welcome words” addresses from the university staff, with a “Looking back at previous ICAZ Bird Working Group meetings” given by Z. Bochenski & E. Gal, and with a general presentation about The Birds of Moldova Region (Romania), of a group of young ornithologists (C. Ion, E. Baltag, L. Sfica & L. Fasola).

The presentations given during the 7th Bird Working Group Meeting, including 14 oral communications and 10 posters, were focused upon themes such as birds as food, bird hunting, birds and symbolism, taphonomy, methodology.

The oral communications were as follows (in order of their presentations):

- Human-bird relationship during the late Holocene in the Beagle Channel region (southern South America) by A.M. Tivoli;
- A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush: A temporal and geographic investigation of fowling in the Scottish islands via data collation and new analyses by J. Best;
- The role of birds in subsistence and culture at Viking Age sites, Denmark by A.B. Gotfredsen;
- Bird remains from the 5th-15th century AD archaeological sites of the Volga - Kama region (Russia) by D. Galimova, I. Askeyev & O. Askeyev;
- Diverse assemblages, diverse origins: the taphonomy of bird remains from coastal sites by D. Serjeantson;
- Avian skeletal part representation: a case study from Offing 2, a hunter-gatherer-fisher site in the Strait of Magellan (Chile) by C. Lefevre & V. Laruollandie;
• Taphonomic study of Japanese quail (Coturnix japonica) bone disarticulation resulting from the burial and feeding behavior of the American burying beetle (Nicrophorus americanus) by F.J. Dirrigl Jr. & L. Perrotti;
• Is the analysis of lead concentration in archaeological goose bone a reliable indicator of domestic bird? by M. Eda, Y. Kodama, E. Ishimaru & M. Yoneda;
• Making eggshell visible in the archaeological record by J. Stewart;
• Le rôle des oiseaux dans le centre urbain de Shahr-i Sokhta (Sistan, Iran) au cour du 3ème millénaire avant JC by M. Gala & A. Tagliacozzo;
• Birds for the elite? Fowling in the coastal area of the northern Netherlands (Roman period and Early Middle Ages) by J. Zeiler;
• Use of Avian Resources by the Forgotten Slaves of Tromelin Island (Indian Ocean) (by V. Laroulandie & C. Lefevre;
• Bird bone remains from the Sanctuary of Jupiter Heliopolitanus in Carnuntum–Mühläcker (Austria) by E. Gal;
• Depictions of birds in the Cucuteni-Tripolye civilization by D. Monah & L. Bejenaru.

Active and interesting discussions after each communication were leaded by the session chairs: Erika Gal, Jørn Zeiler, Dale Serjeantson, Christine Lefevre, and Frank J Dirrigl Jr. The session was ended with general discussion and with the proposal for the next meeting (University of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg, USA), offered by Frank J Dirrigl Jr.

In the session of poster presentations, the authors introduced us in the illustrated subjects:
• Avifauna of south Istria (Croatia) during Late Glacial by O.S. Ankica & B. Dejana;
• Tools made on chicken (Gallus gallus domesticus) tibiotarsus from the Early Islamic period at al-Hadir (Syria) by Jacqueline Studer;
• Few do not mean less quality: information inferred by wild birds in Camino de las Yeseras (Madrid, Spain) by L. Llorente, C. Liesau, A. Morales, A. Daza & R. Applefield;
• Avian zooarchaeology of medieval Poland by D. Makowiecki, T. Tomek & Z.M. Bochenski;
• New artefacts made of bird bones discovered in Romania by C. Beldiman & D.M. Sztancs;
• Impact of prehistoric and historic communities on wild birds in Dobrudja area: archaeozoological data by S. Stanc, E. Gal & L. Bejenaru;
• Bird bone remains from the 11th-12th century settlement of Piatra Frecăţei (Dobruja, Romania) by E. Gal & S.M. Stanc;
• Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Domestic Fowl by N. Sykes, M. Maltby & D. Serjeantson;
• Birds from a New Late Holocene Site in the Northwestern Altai, Siberia by N. Volkova & N. Zelenkov;
• A sceptre of stone representing a bird, found at Popricani (Iasi County, Romania) by N. Ursulescu & V. Cotiuga.

Social activities during the conference started with a Welcome Cocktail which took place Monday evening in the Gaudeamus Restaurant. Tuesday we have visited the Museum of “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University and the Botanical Garden, and the day was concluded with a Festive traditional dinner. Wednesday, in the mid-conference excursion, we visited ornithological and historical sites situated in North-Eastern Romania (Iasi and Botosani counties). We were very happy to be with Dale Serjeantson in her anniversary day and to wish her a warm “Happy New Years!”. Post-conference excursion to Danube Delta, in the last two days, was an excellent opportunity to see, navigating between channels and lakes, so many birds.

We wish to acknowledge all of the people who helped to organize this conference: the authorities and personnel from “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi, Fundatia ALUMNI, Platforma ARHEOINVEST. We thank all of the participants for their support and enthusiasm.

Contributed by Luminita Bejenaru for the Organizing Committee.