



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
MINISTRY FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE, SPORT & LEISURE
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Calpe 2010 Conference

Pleistocene Ecological Change and the Evolution of Bird Migration Systems

Gibraltar 16th-19th September, 2010

Reginald Moreau, the Oxford ornithologist who pioneered work on the role of the Pleistocene in the evolution of bird migration, wrote how *"in 1960...the revelation came to me of the overwhelming importance of the Pleistocene and also of how far advances had been made with the help of palynology and of the carbon 14 technique in defining the enormous ecological changes at all latitudes over the last few tens of thousands of years."*

Gibraltar has always been a focal point in bird migration studies and the work in Gorham's Cave over the past 20 years has additionally revealed a wealth of fossil material of birds. Over 145 bird species have been identified in the Gibraltar Pleistocene fossil record making the Rock Europe's prime bird fossil site. Sometimes overshadowed by the studies on Neanderthals, Gibraltar's prehistoric birds have much to offer in terms of our understanding of the changing ecology of many species that are still with us today. 2010 will be 50 years since Moreau's insightful remarks and it is time to take stock of our state of knowledge. Gibraltar is the ideal location for a gathering of world experts in this field.

Invited speakers will be coming from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Spain, Israel and Switzerland. There will be a call for additional papers and it is hoped that there will be a wide local and international participation in this landmark conference.

A copy of the first draft conference programme is available at the Gibraltar Museum's website: www.gibmuseum.gi

Note to Editors: For further information please contact Marie Mosquera at the Gibraltar Museum on 200 74289. Alternatively, email: museumpr@gibraltar.gi