

The Condor
Volume 108, No. 3
August 2006 C.E.
Abstracts

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

A SMALL SUBOSCINE-LIKE PASSERIFORM BIRD FROM THE EARLY OLIGOCENE OF FRANCE

GERALD MAYR¹ AND ALBRECHT MANEGOLD

Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg, Sektion Ornithologie, Senckenberganlage 25, D-60325 Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Manuscript received 17 January 2006; accepted 5 April 2006.

¹ E-mail: Gerald.Mayr@senckenberg.de

Abstract. We report the wing bones of a small passeriform bird from the early Oligocene of France, which are among the earliest fossil remains of Passeriformes in Europe. The specimen is clearly distinguished from oscines, to which all extant European passeriforms belong, and closely resembles suboscine passerines in presumably derived features. If future, more complete specimens support its assignment to the suboscines, it would be the earliest fossil record of this passeriform taxon. Together with other fossils from the early Oligocene of Germany, it indicates that nonoscine passerines colonized Europe before the arrival of oscines.

Key words: early Oligocene, fossil birds, Passeriformes, suboscines.