

Proceedings of the Third European Conference on Bird Collections, 10-12 October 2003, National Museum of Natural History, Leiden, The Netherlands

R.W.R.J. Dekker, M. Güntert, P. Howlett, M.S. Loneux & C.S. Roselaar (eds)

Dekker, R.W.R.J., M. Güntert, P. Howlett, M.S. Loneux & C.S. Roselaar (eds). Proceedings of the Third European Conference on Bird Collections, 10-12 October 2003, National Museum of Natural History, Leiden, The Netherlands.

Zool. Med. Leiden 79-3, 30-ix-2005, 1-3.— ISSN 0024-0672.

René W.R.J. Dekker, National Museum of Natural History, P.O. Box 9517, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands.

Marcel Güntert, Natural History Museum Bern, Bernastrasse 15, CH-3005 Bern, Switzerland.

Peter Howlett, Department of BioSyB, National Museums & Galleries of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff, Wales, CF10 3NP, United Kingdom.

Michèle S. Loneux, University of Liège Museum of Zoology, Zoological Institute, Quai Van Beneden 22, B-4020 Liège, Belgium.

Kees S. Roselaar, Zoological Museum, University of Amsterdam, P.O. Box 94766, 1090 GT Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

dead BUT alive

Following the publication of the Proceedings of the First and Second European Conferences on Bird Collections in the Bulletin of the British Ornithologist's Club 123A (*Why Museums Matter*) and Bonner zoologische Beiträge 51 (2/3) (*Bird Collections in Europe*), I have the pleasure of presenting here the Proceedings of the Third European Conference. The papers in this document illustrate some of the research and management priorities in bird collections throughout Europe in 2003. The documentation of types, management and scientific use of specimens and DNA studies were on top of most agenda's. Money, both at a national as well as international level, became available for the documentation and registration of (parts of) collections. As the subtitle of this conference indicates, natural history collections might seem to be dead and dusty for the ignorant, but work continues, interest remains and new developments rapidly succeed one another. This is once more illustrated by the most recent development in which birds will play a dominant role: DNA-barcoding. Not yet an issue in 2003, but high on top of the agenda less than two years later. The so-called "All Birds Barcoding Initiative", aimed at barcoding all species of birds, will generate much international attention. We will enter a new era which will again demonstrate the importance of collections and international cooperation and complementarity. And what will be next? Something of which we are not yet aware, something in which the (inter)national community will want to invest as well. The Fourth European Conference, scheduled later this year in Spain, will soon tell. Natural history collections are definitely not dead, they are very much alive. Spread the news.

René W.R.J. Dekker

Leiden, 1 August 2005



From left to right: Hein van Grouw (Leiden), Tineke Prins (Amsterdam), Raffael Winkler (Basel), A. Bretscher Peter Howlett (Cardiff), Gerald Mayr (Frankfurt), Renate van den Elzen (Bonn), Edward Dickinson (Eastbourne), (Walsrode), Jon Fjeldsa (Copenhagen), Kees Moeliker (Rotterdam), Nigel Cleere (Tring), Christiane Quaisser (Liège), Robert Barrett (Tromsø), Gerhard Aubrecht (Linz), Enrico Borgo (Genova), Douglas Russell (Tring), Michael Walters (Tring), J. Cabot (Doñana), Remý Bruckert (Paris), Bas van Balen (Arnhem), Josefina Barreiro Katrina Cook (Tring), Bob McGowan (Edinburgh), Michel Louette (Tervuren), Clem Fisher (Liverpool) and



(Bern), Marcel Güntert (Bern), Steven van der Mije (Leiden), Per Ericson (Stockholm), Kees Roselaar (Amsterdam), Jan Bolding Kristensen (Copenhagen), Risto Väisänen (Helsinki), Mary LeCroy (New York), Norbert Bahr (Berlin), René Dekker (Leiden), Alice Cibois (Geneva), Mark Adams (Tring), Jo Cooper (Tring), Michèle Loneux Carlo Violani (Pavia), Tatjana Vodolajskaya (Kazan), Robert Prys-Jones (Tring), Robert Jan den Tex (Leiden), (Madrid), Eric Pasquet (Paris), Glen Chilton (Calgary), Pamela Rasmussen (Michigan), Anita Gamauf (Wien), Frank Steinheimer (Berlin).

