We identified a second, perfectly preserved skeleton of the earliest known galliform bird, *Gallinuloides wyomingensis* Eastman. The new specimen clearly shows that *G. wyomingensis* does not belong to crown group Galliformes as assumed by earlier authors. In particular, the primitive presence of a deeply excavated, concave facies articularis scapularis at the coracoid precludes the inclusion of *G. wyomingensis* into crown group Galliformes. *Gallinuloides wyomingensis* is morphologically very similar to *Paraortygoides messelensis* Mayr, a nearly contemporaneous galliform from Messel, Germany. The exclusive presence of stem group galliform birds in pre-Oligocene deposits does not support the Gondwanan origin of Galliformes as evidenced by the Southern Hemisphere distribution of basal crown group members (Megapodiidae and Cracidae).

**Key words:** Aves, Galliformes, Gallinuloides, Paraortygoides, Green River Formation, Eocene.

Gerald Mayr [Gerald.Mayr@senckenberg.de] and Ilka Weidig [Ilka.Weidig@senckenberg.de], Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg, Division of Ornithology, Senckenberganlage 25, D–60325 Frankfurt am Main, Germany.