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The predated scavenging birds. Example of "les loups du Gévaudan" park.

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► To cite this version:

Anna Rufa, Véronique Laroulandie. The predated scavenging birds. Example of "les loups du Gévaudan" park.. Colloque international en hommage à Emilie Campmas. Sociétés humaines et environnements dans la zone circumméditerranéenne du Pléistocène au début de l'Holocène, Mar 2021, Toulouse (en ligne), France. hal-03200758

HAL Id: hal-03200758

<https://hal.science/hal-03200758>

Submitted on 16 Apr 2021

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INTRODUCTION

Birds are among the most frequent scavengers^{1,2}. This study aims to illustrate how wolves can prey on carrion birds, and describe the modifications they could produce.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Origin of the assemblage: park “les Loups du Gévaudan”

Period/reason of bone recollection: March 2018

- Hand picked in one of the enclosures of the scientific park
- Wolves are the only carnivores in the park that are able to hunt large-sized birds

Methodology applied: Taphonomy

RESULTS

NISP: 15 (Fig. 1)

MNI: 5

Taxa: Griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*)

Kite (*Milvus sp.*)

Common raven (*Corvus corax*)

Completeness: 40%

- Long bones present fresh fractures with jagged and/or oblique edges

Carnivore modifications: 80% (Fig. 2)

- 53% with pits, punctures and notches (multiple and bilateral)
- Presence of furrowing and crenulated edges
- Two vulture bones show scores
- No digestive alterations

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

There may be situations in which scavenging birds and wolves interact during the consumption of carcasses. This interaction leads to conflicts between both agents looking for the same resources. These circumstances could be lethal for the carrion bird³⁻⁷. Wolves could take advantage of the bird carcasses, consuming them and producing modifications on bones. Despite the small sample size, the present study provides a starting point for better understanding and identifying interactions between wolf and scavenging birds in the archaeological record.

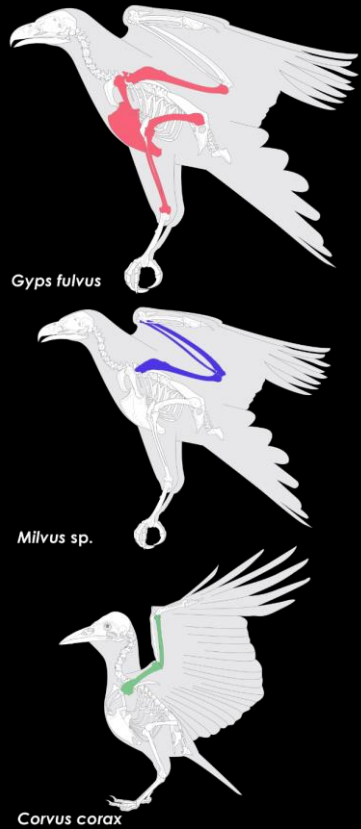


Fig.1 Skeletal representation of the assemblage. Drawings by M. Coutureau (Inrap, ArcheoZoo.org).

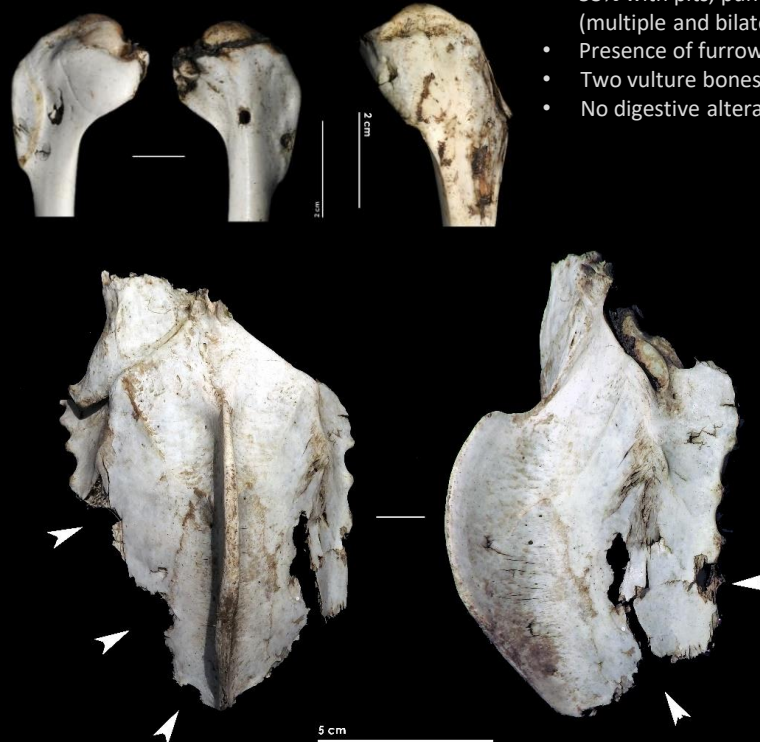


Fig. 2 Mechanical modifications observed on a raven (upper left) and a kite (upper right) humeri, and griffon vulture sternum (lower left) and humerus (lower right).

