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Abstracts of the 10th International Conference on Environmental Microbiology, held in San Francisco, California, from September 15–19, 2008, are available in this issue.

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Cover photograph (Copyright © 2008, American Society for Microbiology. All Rights Reserved.): Hoatzin sitting on a nest with chicks in the gallery forest of the Orinoco River basin. The hoatzin (*Opisthocomus hoazin*) is one of the few folivorous birds and is the only known example with pregastric crop fermentation. This bird uses an enlarged crop and distal esophagus for microbial fermentation of its leafy diet. As in the rumen, fermenting microbes include bacteria, archaea, fungi, and ciliate protozoa. The use of culture-independent molecular methods reveals a high bacterial diversity with an unexpected degree of unclassified lineages that likely include novel cellulolytic bacteria. Photo courtesy of Fabian Michelangeli. (See related article on page 5905.)