

lems that have been addressed have been in the same areas as those addressed using reactor-based cold sources. The areas in question, as is typical for neutron beam exploitation in general, are extraordinarily diverse and range from surface science and chemical spectroscopy to magnetism. The possibilities inherent in the time structure of PS cold moderator performance represent opportunities for optimization beyond those of steady-source moderators that are still being explored.

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"Quetzal" Coatings

The Mayan mural illustrated on the cover of the 12 July issue clearly illustrates the beauty of the blue dye used by the Mayans (Reports, 12 July, p. 223). The bird in the mural is identified as a "quetzal," but its features—the sturdy curved bill, pale lore around the eyes, long tail, and sturdy legs—suggest that it is probably a macaw. Although no extant macaw matches the painting in every detail, the bird is most likely a macaw of the genus *Anodorhynchus*. All three extant *Anodorhynchus* species have blue plumage and pale lores. Two of them measure about 73 centimeters from head to tail (1); the bird as painted measures 70 centimeters from head to tail. Given the generally high level of Mayan artistic accuracy, it seems likely that the artist knew this bird well and did not simply create it from the imagination. The genus *Anodorhynchus* is today restricted to Brazil and Argentina (1). Thus, the Maya painting suggests that some species of blue macaw may have formerly inhabited Mexico. Differences between extant species of *Anodorhynchus* and the bird depicted (such as the presence of a crest and pale epaulets) might even suggest that Mexico once boasted its own, now extinct, species of blue macaw, lost perhaps to overhunting or habitat destruction. Alternatively, Mayans and the inhabitants of South America might have engaged in trade in these birds.

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References

1. J. M. Forshaw and W. T. Cooper, *Parrots of the World* (Lansdowne, Melbourne, Australia, 1973).

Corrections and Clarifications

In the report "A revised chronology for Mississippi River subdeltas" by T. E. Tornqvist *et al.* (20 Sept., p. 1693), the e-mail address of the corresponding author should have read, "t.tornqvist@frw.ruu.nl".

In the letter "Science in China" by T. C. Tso (13 Sept., p. 1478), the reference numbers in the text should have read 1 through 4, not 2 through 5. In the second column of the letter, 12 lines from the bottom, "(1)" should not have appeared.

In the letter "Redundant genome sequencing" by J. E. Davies (30 Aug., p. 1155), the word "Mycobacterium" was misspelled twice, and the word "mycobacterial" was incorrectly spelled. These errors occurred during editing.

In the Research News article "Learning deficit identified in brain" by Marcia Barinaga (16 Aug., p. 867), the end of the first sentence should have read "the certain spoken sounds known as phonemes." The end of the last complete sentence on that page should have read, "distinguish between syllables that begin with closely related phonemes."

In the Research News article "Forging a path to cell death" by Marcia Barinaga (9 Aug., p. 735), Matthias Man of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Heidelberg, Germany, should have been included as a collaborator with the groups of V. Dixit and P. Krammer in the discovery of the FLICE protein.

The Random Samples item "Grassroots search for primes . . ." (9 Aug., p. 743), inaccurately described assembly language as the raw code read by a computer. Assembly language must be translated by an assembler into machine language (ones and zeros) before a computer reads it.

Letters to the Editor

Letters may be submitted by e-mail (at science_letters@aaas.org), fax (202-789-4669), or regular mail (*Science*, 1200 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005, USA). Letters are not routinely acknowledged. Full addresses, signatures, and daytime phone numbers should be included. Letters should be brief (300 words or less) and may be edited for reasons of clarity or space. They may appear in print and/or on the World Wide Web. Letter writers are not consulted before publication.

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