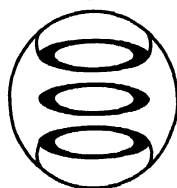


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Birds Are Birds

Many of us in the zoological community are still reeling from the news that the birds are extant members of the Dinosauria. Imagine our consternation, then, to learn from the article "The brain as 'sexual organ'" (News & Comment, 30 Aug., p. 957) that they have been moved into the Mammalia. Is this one more example of the breathtaking pace of change in systematics wrought by the adoption of cladistic methods?

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Response: Even the bird-brained editors at *Science* know birds are not mammals, but the mistake was a result of an editing error late in the production process and we are willing to eat a little crow.—Eds.

Erratum: Shirley Malcom, in her editorial "Plugging the pipeline" (18 Oct., p. 353) mentions the AAAS Mentor Award and directs readers to page 387 of that issue. Because of a printer's error, a Call for Nominations for the Mentor Award did not appear on page 387 and appears instead in this issue (25 Oct., p. 587).

Correction

In the Research News article "A 'mitey' theory for gene jumping" (6 Sept., p. 1093), Jean Marx erred when she wrote that the groups of Marilyn A. Houck and Margaret G. Kidwell (Reports, 6 Sept., p. 1125) focused on *Proctolaelaps regalis* as a possible carrier of P elements among *Drosophila* species by a "process of elimination." Viruses were not screened for P elements during the study, as implied, nor were any other organisms. Rather, the work was initiated by acarologist Houck (then on the faculty of the University of Arizona), who was aware of P element history from conversations with the Kidwell lab. Houck and Ken Peterson, a postdoc in the Kidwell lab, then initiated the Southern blot analysis that pointed to the presence of P element DNA in *P. regalis*, and Jonathan Clark, a postdoc at Arizona's Center for Insect Science, significantly extended the work through the application of polymerase chain reaction. Their data do not exclude the possibility of viral participation in the system, however.—Eds.

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