Special Issue

Avian Evolution: From the Perspective of Developmental Biology

Message from the Guest Editors

The evolutionary transition from non-avian dinosaurs to modern birds is now being viewed in the context of developmental biology. Multiple fields are converging, providing unprecedented insights into the evolution that resulted in today's birds. Research on feather evolution, braincase modeling, genetic macroevolution, eggshell formation, embryonic ossification patterns, and a host of avian developmental processes are linking ancestral traits to extant biology. These studies are revealing the connections between the three major groups of modern birds. Identifying whether particular features are convergent or ancestral by their respective development can infer how those groups evolved from each other and their dinosaur ancestors. A collection representing a wide range of related research has not yet been compiled. This Special Issue on "Avian Evolution: From the Perspective of Developmental Biology" seeks to incorporate analysis of fossil specimens and related developmental mechanisms reflected in modern dinosaurs bringing this research into a powerful composite for the field.

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