Whole-genome analyses resolve early branches in the tree of life of modern birds

An international team of scientists has completed the largest whole genome study of a single class of animals to date. To map the tree of life for birds, the team sequenced, assembled and compared full genomes of 48 bird species representing all major branches of modern birds.

As part of the Avian Phylogenomics Consortium — comprised of more than 200 scientists from 80 institutions across 20 countries — the Biometry and Evolutionary Biology laboratory (LBBE) researchers’ work was published in a special issue of Science.

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