

BIRD EVOLUTION

FROM DINOSAURS TO DNA

BIRDS ARE THE LIVING DESCENDANTS OF DINOSAURS. THIS THEORY, BASED ON THE STUDY OF FOSSILISED BONES, IS NOW ACCEPTED BY MOST EVOLUTIONISTS.



Professor Scott V. Edwards,
Curator of Ornithology, Harvard University

language of DNA reveals the origin of birds' unique traits, such as feathers, the mystery of evolutionary reversals, such as loss of flight, and provides clues to their stunning diversity and survival in the face of global environmental change.

What is less well known is that the genomes of birds - comprised of over 1 billion DNA letters and thousands of genes - bear traces of their dinosaur ancestry as well. Modern genomics reveals how bird genomes reflect their streamlined and high-energy lifestyles, epitomized by their ability to fly. Deciphering the

WELLINGTON: TUESDAY 11 AUGUST, 6.00PM, TE MARAE, TE PAPA TONGAREWA, MUSEUM OF NEW ZEALAND

NAPIER: WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST, 6.00PM, NAPIER AQUARIUM EXHIBITION HALL, MARINE PARADE

CHRISTCHURCH: THURSDAY 13 AUGUST, 6.00PM, THE CHATEAU ON THE PARK, 189 DEANS AVENUE, RICCARTON

NELSON: FRIDAY 14 AUGUST, 6.00PM, MAITAI ROOM, RUTHERFORD HOTEL NELSON

DUNEDIN: MONDAY 17 AUGUST, 6.30PM, ST DAVID LECTURE THEATRE, UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO

PALMERSTON NORTH: TUESDAY 18 AUGUST, 6.30PM, THE GLOBE THEATRE, MAIN STREET

TAURANGA: WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST, 6.30PM, TAURANGA YACHT AND POWER BOAT CLUB, 90 KEITH ALLAN DRIVE, SULPHUR POINT

AUCKLAND: THURSDAY 20 AUGUST, 6.15PM, AUCKLAND MUSEUM AUDITORIUM



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