Extinct Species Brought Back to Life by the Power of Game Consoles

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When, in 2007, a spelunking expedition to the caves of the island of Mauritius uncovered the intact skeleton of *Raphus cucullatus*, or dodo, fans of *Jurrasic Park* were hoping it was only a question of time. The temperatures and obscurity in the caves had preserved the remarkable specimen and samples of DNA were readily extracted. It took only three years for researchers to splice the complete genome sequence of this proverbially extinct species. That incredible speed, three times faster than the sequencing of the human genome, was made possible by what researchers have dubbed a "Consoling Farm": a network of thousands of handheld video-game consoles. Project Director Dr. Moria claims the approach has benefits both in terms of costs and processing time over traditional supercomputing .

Complete analysis of the mitochondrial DNA has confirmed contested research from 2002 by identifying the Nicobar Pigeon of the Malay Archipelago as the dodo's closest living ancestor. After numerous unsuccessful attempts, a team of UK-based geneticists today announced that it had successfully introduced a *Raphinae* DNA nucleus into a de-nucleated oocyte from a Nicobar Pigeon donor. Two eggs have successfully hatched and it is hoped the pair will soon begin repopulating the island of Mauritius where the species died out in the 17th century.

DNA sample extracted from an intact incisor / The "Consoling Farm" runs Linux and contains 12 288 consoles by high-speed connections. The RISC ARM 9 @ 133 MHz and ARM7 @ 66MHz processors onboard each handheld console provide 60 Mega FLOPS: calculating power that has left specialist flummoxed.