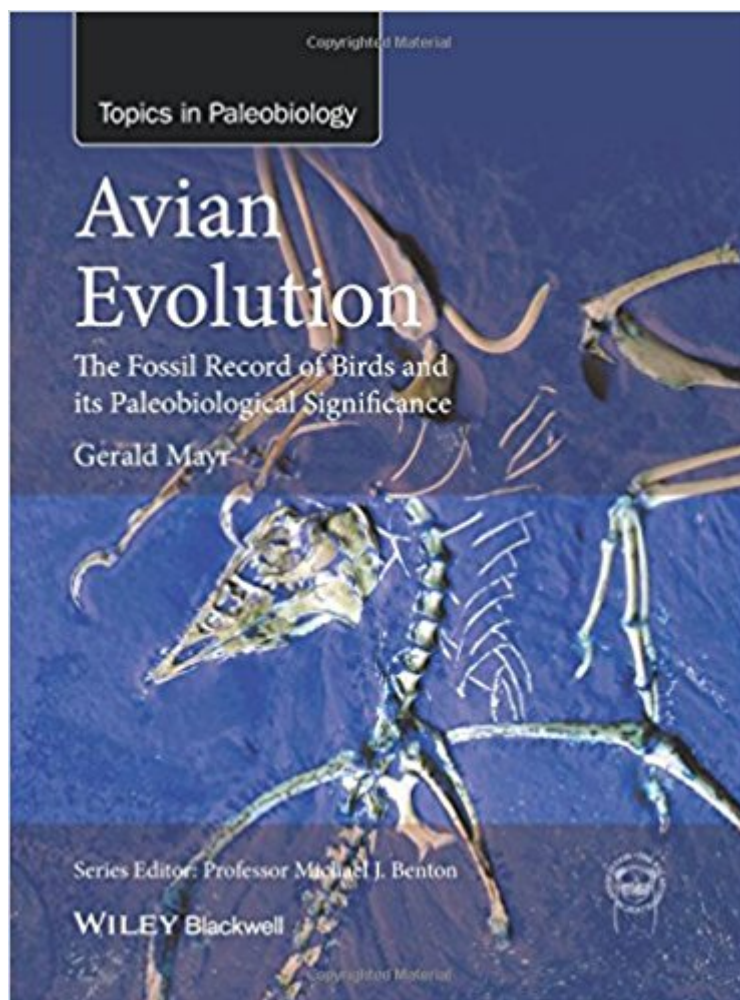




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Avian Evolution: The Fossil Record Of Birds And Its Paleobiological Significance (TOPA Topics In Paleobiology)



Synopsis

Knowledge of the evolutionary history of birds has much improved in recent decades. Fossils from critical time periods are being described at unprecedented rates and modern phylogenetic analyses have provided a framework for the interrelationships of the extant groups. This book gives an overview of the avian fossil record and its paleobiological significance, and it is the only up-to-date textbook that covers both Mesozoic and more modern-type Cenozoic birds in some detail. The reader is introduced to key features of basal avians and the morphological transformations that have occurred in the evolution towards modern birds. An account of the Cenozoic fossil record sheds light on the biogeographic history of the extant avian groups and discusses fossils in the context of current phylogenetic hypotheses. This review of the evolutionary history of birds not only addresses students and established researchers, but it may also be a useful source of information for anyone else with an interest in the evolution of birds and a moderate background in biology and geology.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Even though there is an introductory section on cladistics (phylogenetic analysis), the elements of the bird skeleton & the geology/age of the various sites where early fossil birds were found, this is still a graduate level reference book & definitely not light reading. It is copyrighted 2017, so it is likely very current (in November 2016). The very large number of new feathered dinosaurs & early birds that have been found recently can be very confusing because there are few comparative photos or text illustrations with which to compare them. Cladistics alone can be very confusing as there may be

diagrams to illustrate what is being stated in the text but it is a very specialized & complex field, especially for the casual reader. I have a section of my home library devoted to the evolution of birds (aka feathered & mostly flying dinosaurs), so this was a welcome addition.

Excellent review about avian evolution

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