



Eggs, Nests, and Baby Dinosaurs: A Look at Dinosaur Reproduction

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sects, as well as other topics readily identifiable in popular culture.

Like Berenbaum's other popular works, this book will help in educating the public about the world of insects. Readers are exposed to insects through humorous anecdotes that relate insects to the world in a way nonentomologists will understand and enjoy. This book will bring many readers in touch with topics they would not normally read about. Unfortunately, young readers may be left out as many of the essays contain topics that will not be of interest to them. The essays are well researched and an index is provided. Educational topics range from insect airspeeds and details of insect life histories to insects in medicine. Overall, the blend of humor and education make this book a delight to read.

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PALEONTOLOGY

EGGS, NESTS, AND BABY DINOSAURS: A LOOK AT DINOSAUR REPRODUCTION. *Life of the Past*.

By Kenneth Carpenter. Bloomington (Indiana): Indiana University Press. \$35.00. xiii + 336 p + 13 pl; ill.; index. ISBN: 0-253-33497-7. 1999.

The study of dinosaur reproduction has come a long way since the discovery of the first dinosaur egg-clutch by an expedition of the American Museum of Natural History, which made headlines in the early 1920s. Fueled by the discovery of numerous nesting sites over the last 20 years, some including embryonic remains, the study of dinosaur eggs, nests, and babies has become a distinct and active discipline of vertebrate paleontology. Following the steps of the previous edited volume—*Dinosaurs Eggs and Babies* (K Carpenter, K F Hirsch, and J R Horner. 1994. Cambridge (UK): Cambridge University Press)—this new book provides an accessible update of the history and development of this discipline.

The 13 chapters in this volume cover a wide range of topics. The first two chapters are a compilation of both historical and geographical dinosaur egg discoveries. Chapter 3 provides a discussion of the different hypotheses about the origin of the amniote egg, followed by the speculative issue of dinosaur courtship and mating in Chapters 4 and 5. The next chapter provides a good descriptive summary of the formation of hard-shell eggs. Chapters 7 through 9 focus on taphonomic issues, research techniques, and eggshell parataxonomy. Chapter 10 provides an overview of the different types of nests and nesting strategies. The following chapter covers embryos and hatchlings, as well as their on-

togeny and identification. Chapter 12 addresses posthatching development and juvenile-adult interactions. The final chapter discusses hypotheses of dinosaur extinction involving eggs. The book concludes with appendixes on dinosaur egg occurrences and types, as well as a useful list of references.

Considering that the literature in this field is often published in journals of limited distribution, this book will be a good reference for both students and researchers. The audience may be disappointed to find, however, that most of the photographs are murky and rather amateurish, although some of this is likely the fault of the publisher. Nonetheless, Carpenter could have had more control over the unevenness of his discourse, which jumps from addressing an audience of elementary school children to using mathematical equations and a much more technical language. This unevenness of style is also expressed in the nature of the illustrations, which range from cartoon-like to others more appropriate for peer-reviewed journals.

Perhaps the most serious content-based criticism of this book is its dated approach to systematics, which does little to highlight the recent developments that indicate that eggshell microstructure contains important phylogenetic signals, and that the conventional parataxonomic classification leads to paraphyletic grouping. Kenneth Carpenter's important compilation of recent oological developments is somewhat overshadowed by his reliance on this dated parataxonomic system. In the end, however, this book provides the most complete summary of dinosaur reproduction available, and deserves to be on the bookshelf of anyone interested in vertebrate evolution.

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SKELETONS IN OUR CLOSET: REVEALING OUR PAST THROUGH BIOARCHAEOLOGY.

By Clark Spencer Larsen. Princeton (New Jersey): Princeton University Press. \$35.00. xvii + 248 p; ill.; index. ISBN: 0-691-00490-0. 2000.

An underlining theme to the narrative written by Clark Spencer Larsen is that we have much to learn from the dead. This is his personal account of how bioarchaeologists, paleopathologists, and other practitioners of biological and social science joined together in multidisciplinary research that focuses on the reconstruction of life ways of past populations. In this narrative, the author recalls his early influences as a student of anthropology and how these experiences, and his work with several anthropological mentors, molded his academic study of bioarchaeology. In a career that spans 30 years, he recounts his research accomplishments as well as the