

# The Plumed Dinosaur

Paul Sereno, professor in organismal biology & anatomy, gave a Harper Lecture in New York this fall, discussing recent findings in paleontology.

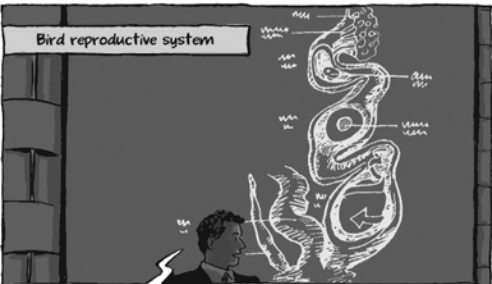


Early birds were almost all predatory; they evolved from predatory dinosaurs. And we now know that dinosaurs were feathered.



This is a really beautiful fossil from China with the carbonized remains of feathers. At first there was doubt in the scientific community whether the connection between birds and dinosaurs could be proven, but now we've found every shade of fossil between dinosaur and birds.

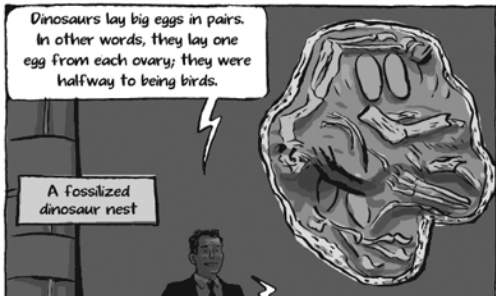
## Bird reproductive system



Old-style reproduction was to lay a lot of little eggs and walk away. Birds lay approximately one very large egg per day. They have evolved one ovary very highly, and the other is basically vestigial, like an appendix.

Dinosaurs lay big eggs in pairs. In other words, they lay one egg from each ovary; they were halfway to being birds.

A fossilized dinosaur nest



People like to speculate what the descendants of the dinosaurs would have looked like if they hadn't died off. But we know what dinosaurs would have evolved into: they evolved into birds.

I have a dinosaur book at home that is approximately 1,200 pages. I have read it 15 times.



Third graders Mack Muldofsky and Branko Mravic afterwards in the book line

I was the dinosaur expert in first and second grade. And that's what everybody called me because it's true. They don't call me that anymore, but it's still true.

Giganotosaurus is my favorite.

Mostly all the theropods.



Yeah, the raptors! The raptors rock!