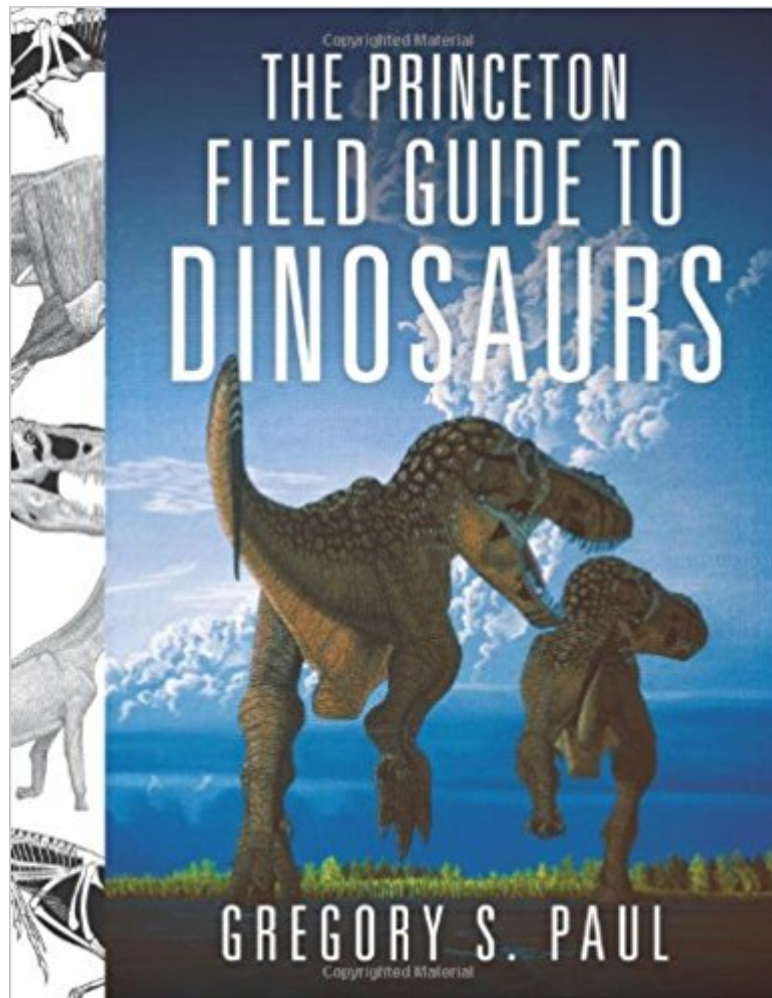




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The Princeton Field Guide To Dinosaurs (Princeton Field Guides)



Synopsis

This lavishly illustrated volume is the first authoritative dinosaur book in the style of a field guide. World-renowned dinosaur illustrator and researcher Gregory Paul provides comprehensive visual and textual coverage of the great Mesozoic animals that gave rise to the living dinosaurs, the birds. Incorporating the new discoveries and research that are radically transforming what we know about dinosaurs, this book is distinguished both by its scientific accuracy and the quality and quantity of its illustrations. It presents thorough descriptions of more than 735 dinosaur species and features more than 600 color and black-and-white images, including unique skeletal drawings, "life" studies, and scenic views--illustrations that depict the full range of dinosaurs, from small, feathered creatures to whale-sized supersauropods. Heavily illustrated species accounts of the major dinosaur groups are preceded by an extensive introduction that covers dinosaur history and biology, the extinction of nonavian dinosaurs, the origin of birds, and the history of dinosaur paleontology--and that also gives a taste of what it might be like to travel back to the time of the dinosaurs. The Princeton Field Guide to Dinosaurs is a must-have for anyone who loves dinosaurs, from the amateur enthusiast to the professional paleontologist. The first authoritative field guide to dinosaurs Covers more than 735 species Beautiful, large-format volume Lavishly illustrated throughout, with more than 600 color and black-and-white drawings and figures, including: More than 130 color life studies, including scenic views Close to 450 skeletal, skull, head, and muscle drawings 8 color paleo-distribution maps Color timeline Describes anatomy, physiology, locomotion, reproduction, and growth of dinosaurs, as well as the origin of birds and the extinction of nonavian dinosaurs

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Covering 735 species of dinosaurs, this volume, the work of a well-known dinosaur researcher and illustrator, consists of two main sections. The first is an introduction that includes a discussion on dinosaur evolution, biology, behavior, and more. The majority of the information is found in the "Group and Species Accounts" section and is further divided into three groups:

"Theropods," "Sauropodomorphs," and "Ornithischians." Entries on each species are concise and typically include information related to their anatomical characteristics, age, distribution, and habitat. Notes may be used to communicate alternative theories or debates that apply to the species. The volume also contains more than 600 color and black-and-white illustrations, among them more than 130 color life studies (some of them scenic views); nearly 450 skeletal, skull, head, and muscle drawings; and 8 paleo-distribution maps. Described as "the first authoritative dinosaur book in the style of a field guide," this volume is more scientific in its language and approach than many of the other dinosaur books a library will have in its collection. At the same time, the illustrations should attract dinosaur fans. Recommended for public and academic libraries.

--Robyn Rosenberg

One of Choice's Outstanding Academic Titles for 2011
One of the Library Journal's Best Reference (Print, Electronic, and Free Reference Resources) in the Sciences category, for 2009
Honorable Mention for the 2010 PROSE Award in Single Volume Reference/Science, Association of American Publishers
"You'll never need to decide whether that massive beast lumbering through your front yard is *Chasmosaurus belli* or *C. sternbergi*, but if you did, this would be a handy book to have on your windowsill. . . . [A]s dinosaur guidebooks go, this is as carefully assembled and authoritative as they come."--Laurence A. Marschall, *Natural History*
"Artist and researcher Gregory S. Paul describes hundreds of dinosaur species in this richly illustrated compendium. Learn how beasts ranging from *Allosaurus* to *Triceratops* grew, moved and reproduced--and how they eventually went extinct."--*Scientific American*
"Given the vibrant state of dinosaur science, any book about them is going to be out-of-date by the time it hits shelves, but Gregory Paul's new *The Princeton Field Guide to Dinosaurs* is a useful yearbook of dinosaurs which includes a variety of rarely-mentioned species. . . . Indeed, Paul is to be credited for pulling so much information together into one volume, as well as for illustrating so many skeletons (some dinosaurs no doubt discovered while the book was in press.)"--Brian Switek, *SmithsonianMag.com's Dinosaur Tracking blog*
"The

publication of Gregory Paul's *The Princeton Field Guide to Dinosaurs* is cause for celebration for all who share a fascination with this diverse family of animals. Paul's field guide is (perhaps) the most comprehensive one-volume guide to what we know about 735 species of dinosaurs. The book includes an outstanding . . . introduction summarizing the history of dinosaurs research, evolution, biology, energetics, behavior, and distribution. It includes a discussion of the most arresting feature of dinosaurs--their great size. . . . The heart of the book is a richly illustrated field guide which is organized like any of the field guides that we have become accustomed to. The species are presented in phylogenetic order and meticulously and beautifully illustrated following the current state of our knowledge of posture and shape."--Wayne Mones, AudubonMagazine.org

blog"World-renowned dinosaur illustrator and researcher Gregory Paul provides comprehensive visual and textual coverage of the dinosaurs in this lavishly illustrated field guide. Incorporating the latest discoveries and research that are radically transforming what we know about dinosaurs, this book is distinguished both by its scientific accuracy and the quality and quantity of its illustrations. . . . The Princeton Field Guide to Dinosaurs is a must-have for anyone who loves dinosaurs, from the amateur enthusiast to the professional paleontologist."--Prehistoric Times"Lavishly filled with fossil forms and drawn interpretations of their outward appearance, the guide covers the entire spectrum of dinosaur species. The color images of some of the rock stars of the Age of Dinosaurs, from T-Rex to Triceratops, will enthrall any youngster with a yen for these ancient beasts. . . . Paul has revitalized and re-invented the depiction of dinosaurs in recent decades, and the book brings the breadth of their lost world to today's readers."--Dan Vergano, USA Today"This latest book by Paul, a leading dinosaur researcher and illustrator, is an excellent accompaniment to your standard dinosaur encyclopedias. Its strength lies in the inclusion of over 735 species, along with information on how complete the fossil skeletons representing them are, anatomical characteristics, distribution of fossil finds, the animal's probable habitat, and what scientists believe about its behavior. . . .

[B]eautifully illustrated."--Library Journal"A fantastic new book on dinosaurs. . . . Paul is an accomplished illustrator and expert in all things dinosaurian. The first 60 pages of the book provide an introduction to dinosaur biology, morphology and techniques for studying these fossils. The information on how the limbs of dinosaurs articulated is particularly intriguing. . . . His fine illustrations provide nice accents to the text. The meat of the book is the coverage of individual dinosaur species."--Herb Wilson, Portland Press Herald"This book . . . shows off Paul at his artistic and conceptual finest, as it is replete with all the latest knowledge of dinosaurian knowledge. . . .

[I]t's an excellent book, one of the best ever, and one which I wish was around in my youth, when all I had were dense textbooks."--Dan Schneider, Blogcritics.org"There's no doubt that Paul has done a

tremendous job with The Princeton Field Guide to Dinosaurs and it's quite impressive. If you're serious about dinosaurs and want a meticulously researched guide, this is certainly the book for you."--Jonathan Liu, Wired.com's GeekDad blog

"Paul, an eminent authority on dinosaur anatomy and a leading dinosaur illustrator, presents detailed information on all dinosaur groups. . . . The author, well known for his detailed skeletal diagrams and ability to interpret dinosaur biomechanics, displays his formidable skills throughout this book. . . . Serious dinosaur scholars will devour this book; it is a major contribution to the field."--Choice

"Reproduced and copied time and again, Paul's interpretation of dinosaur anatomy has found for years a permanent home on both the popular and scientific page. Paul's latest publication, The Princeton Field Guide to Dinosaurs, is the collection of these skeletal reconstructions that the dinosaur-loving community has been waiting for. If nothing else, it is this collection that makes the book worthy of ownership."--Richard A. Kissel, American Paleontologist

"I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It represents the most comprehensive collection of scientifically informed dinosaur anatomical illustrations to date, making it a valuable desk reference. One can imagine taking a trip back to the Mesozoic and using this guide to identify these awe-inspiring creatures. This volume should find a proud place on the bookshelf of both amateurs and professionals."--Christopher R. Noto, Quarterly Review of Biology

"I am certain that all ages of dinosaur fans will love this book."--Dan Tallman, South Dakota Bird Notes

"Greg Paul is an independent researcher who specialises on dinosaurs; he's well known for his popular articles, books and technical papers, but in particular for his hugely influential artwork. Paul's most recent book--the 2010 The Princeton Field Guide to Dinosaurs--is, simply put, the ultimate Greg Paul book. It's a large, heavily illustrated catalogue of over 400 reconstructed skeletons, accompanied throughout with life restorations and brief chunks of text that present data on the world's Mesozoic dinosaur species."--Darren Naish, ScientificAmerican.com's Tetrapod Zoology blog

In the 1997 I bought *Dinosaurs, the Encyclopedia* by Don Glut for \$140. That is a very thick (~1000 page) volume that summarized all dinosaur genera known at the time. Every two years an equally thick supplement would come out at \$100-150. Currently the latest is Supplement 6. I myself got up to Supplement 4 and decided that, although having a comprehensive review of dinosaur science was nice (and I actually read through each volume), this was much too expensive a series to follow. Recently, I bought a brand new book *The Princeton Field Guide to Dinosaurs* by Gregory S. Paul. This book has just as comprehensive look at the variety of dinosaurs in a much more compact format at an affordable price: nominally \$35, but much less on .

Greg Paul is a well-known illustrator of dinosaurs. While he does not have formal training as a

paleontologist, he (like Don Glut) has a very deep and broad grasp of the subject of dinosaurs. I own three other of his books. *Predatory Dinosaurs of the World* (1988) is a classic. *Dinosaurs of the Air* (2002) is a comprehensive review of the dinosaur origin of birds. He also edited *The Scientific American Book of Dinosaurs* (2000), which is a collection of special topics. Paul is the originator of the white skeleton embedded in a black silhouette style of drawing prehistoric animals, which has caught on in a big way. The *Field Guide* seems to be aimed at serious amateurs or professionals. It has a 63-page introductory section on various aspects: What is a Dinosaur?; Dating Dinosaurs; Skin, Feathers, and Color; Disease and Pathologies; Growth; etc. On the one hand, I admire Paul for putting so much information into so few pages. On the other hand, I have to say that he has a review article style of writing which is more suited to professional journals than a semi-popular work. The meat of the book is a series of short (many per page) summaries of each dinosaur species: estimated length and possible weight, Fossil Remains (how much of the skeleton is known), Anatomical Characteristics (special features relative to similar dinosaurs), Age (e.g. Late Jurassic), Distribution and Formation (e.g. Central China, Shangxiamiao), Habitat (e.g. forests and lakes), and Notes (any other info, e.g. Thought to be the biggest dromaeosaur). The genera are arranged cladistically, e.g. a section on theropods has a subsection on avian dinosaurs, which has a subsection on Allosaurus-like genera. This is in contrast to the usual arrangement by alphabetical order in most encyclopedia-format books. But not to worry, there is a very good index. A large fraction of the entries have a skeleton in silhouette drawing which allows the reader to tell at a glance which parts of the skeleton are known. There is sometimes also a detailed drawing of the skull. Sprinkled around the book are color restorations of a single species or action scenes with two or more dinosaurs. There are ~1500 dinosaur species named in the literature, but probably only about half are valid (i.e. there is enough material to tell they are truly distinct, and not juveniles, females, geographic variations, etc. of some other type of dinosaur). The *Field Guide* covers 735 species. I consider myself a pretty knowledgeable amateur, but I have not heard of the vast majority of the dinosaur genera in this book--which is a good thing. Also, I had no idea there were so many species assigned to each genera. (For example, there are 5 species of *Diplodocus*.) I know of a lot of cases where genera could be lumped together, for example, *Tarbosaurus* is probably an Asian variety of *Tyrannosaurus*, and *Dracorex* is probably a juvenile *Pachycephalosaurus*. It surprised me a little that Paul partly equates *Styracosaurus*, *Einosaurus*, *Achelousaurus*, and *Pachyrhinosaurus* with *Centrosaurus*. These are all ceratopsids with a nose horn, and horns on the frill, but no brow horns; but the shape

and number of horns is quite diverse. Similarly with *Corythosaurus*, *Lambeosaurus*, and *Hypacrosaurus*. These are all hadrosaurs with tallish crests on their heads, but of different shapes. For those dinosaur enthusiasts who like to read the encyclopedia as I do, this is a very valuable book at a very good price. The only downside is that dinosaur discoveries happen all time, with a new species of dinosaur named every six weeks on the average, and a book like this gets out of date very quickly. For a book this compact, one- or two-year supplements wouldn't make any sense (they would only be only 10 pages long), but it would be nice if the whole book was updated periodically. The price is so good, it would be no problem to re-buy it every few years.

Gregory S. Paul's 1988 book, *Predatory Dinosaurs of the World: A Complete Illustrated Guide*, reignited my childhood interest in dinosaurs when I was a teenager. I read it cover to cover several times and carried it around for months and months, lingering over his exacting white-skeletons-on-black-soft-tissue reconstructions with my eyes, ruminating over the accompanying text, and wistfully wishing that the book didn't stop with the last theropod but went on to cover sauropods and everything else in the same level of detail. Now, some 22 years later, Paul releases what is probably his magnum opus: a big, bold 8 & 1/2 by 11 volume containing hundreds of reconstructions dozens of muscle studies and shaded skull drawings, and numerous fine color scenes. A feast for the eyes and an atlas for the imagination. Paul writes in the preface: "Producing this book has been particularly satisfying in that it has given me the reason to achieve a long-term goal, to illustrate the skeletons of almost all dinosaur species for which there is sufficiently complete available." Thank you, Mr. Paul, from the bottom of our hearts! And thank you Princeton University Press for producing a durable big-format volume, the sort of thing that older boys can carry around on planes, trains, and automobiles . . .

Like many, I was introduced to Greg Paul's artwork as a young teenager in the 1980s. His *Predatory Dinosaurs of the World* was my favorite book for years. This book is a bit of a letdown in that aside from the terrific skeletons, he offers no scale bars, zero information on the type specimens, the author(s) who named and described each taxon, or even the actual preserved elements. Stranger still, some taxa, known from reasonably complete specimens (*Coelurus*, *Dilong*, *Guanlong*, *Torvosaurus*, and *Tanycolagreus* for example) are not illustrated, while others that are known from similarly complete material (*Ornitholestes* and *Irritator*) are. Why? This is never addressed. Also, the color pencil drawings are absolutely amateurish and detract from the otherwise excellent art. Are

these goofy little sketches really meant to convey an impression of the animals' heads? He's essentially traced the skulls, slapped in an eyeball, and presented it as a life portrait. Almost embarrassing. The text that accompanies the species descriptions appears to have been written by a child with a list of "enemies" provided for herbivores, and only the most cursory and useless description of the material: "most of the skull and minority of skeleton"...what exactly does that mean?! So overall, you're getting some nice skeletal drawings, a brief note of where and when the thing was found, and some shoddy color pencil sketches. For me, the skeletons are worthwhile, but others might like a bit more actual information, so this book will perhaps be lacking. On a final note, Greg Paul has recently declared that his guides should not be used as guides for artists wanting a skeletal reference upon which to draw or sculpt. So, be warned! This odd little man with an ego the size of Texas publishes some nice skeletal drawings, but if you use these references as a...you know...reference, he might sue you.

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