
Contents

Preface to the Second Edition ix

Preface to the First Edition xiii

- 1 Mesozoic Pompeii 1
- 2 The Evolution of an Airframe 9
- 3 The Origin of Birds 19
- 4 *Archaeopteryx*: An Ancient Wing 57
- 5 *Protoavis*: A Precocious Triassic Bird 72
- 6 Basal Avialans: The Long-Tailed Birds 106
- 7 Pygostylia: The Short-Tailed Birds 113
- 8 Enantiornithes: Global Cretaceous Birds 123
- 9 Ornithuromorphs: The Prelude to Modern Birds 140
- 10 The End-Cretaceous Mass Extinction 158
- 11 The Avian Revolution Begins 175
- 12 The Origin of Flight 213
- 13 Eggs, Embryos, and Heterochrony 265
- 14 Feathers and Footprints 287
- 15 The Feeding Mechanism and Cranial Kinesis 304
- 16 Birds and Humans 333

Bibliography 343

Index 361