



## FOSSIL FEATHER

This fossil is a feather preserved in sand that was deposited about 60,000 years ago in the American Falls Lake Bed in Idaho. Fossil feathers are most often preserved as impressions rather than as fossilized feathers themselves.

Fossil feathers are relatively rare. Scientists have learned two important facts from finding fossil feathers: some dinosaurs had feathers and the feathers were colored.

Scientists now know that one fossil bird from the Jurassic Period had black and white wings and red feathers on the top of its head. Paleontologists working in China found this bird, known as *Anchiornis*. Other scientists using the same techniques are trying to determine the color of fossil scales and hair from other dinosaurs.

The Pleistocene Epoch was a time during which much of the northern continents were cold and covered with ice. It was the time of mammoths, giant sloths, and saber-toothed cats, all of which have been found as fossils in the American Falls Lake Beds.