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Cover

Skull of a paleognathous bird from the early Eocene of Wyoming, about 50 million years old. Somewhat older fossils from Montana also belong to this previously unknown group of medium-sized, flying birds. The ostrich-like palate of these birds is primitive and therefore cannot be used to define the ostrich-like birds (ratites) as a monophyletic group. See page 1236. [V. Krantz, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560]