



The  
Geological  
Society

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# Western Regional Group

## evening lecture

## The Colours of Fossil Birds and Dinosaurs

Professor Michael J. Benton, University of Bristol

21<sup>st</sup> October 2014. Talk starts at 6:30pm



Earth scientists wrestle with the limits of what is knowable. For years, dinosaur experts have had to say, ruefully, 'We'll never know the colours of dinosaurs or the noises they made'. Then, in January 2010, we were able to announce the first objective evidence for colour in a dinosaur. Using ultrastructural studies of fossil feathers, we identified melanosomes for the first time in dinosaur feathers, and these demonstrated that *Sinosauropteryx* had ginger and white rings down its



tail. Studies of other dinosaurs identified patterns of black,

white, grey, brown, and ginger.

The story began in China, and collaborations and fieldwork are extending our knowledge of this previously speculative theme.

### Forthcoming Talks

The WRG is constantly on the lookout for fascinating talks. If you would like to present, know someone who is willing or know of a topic that would be of interest please contact the WRG committee (details below) and we will try our very best to accommodate your requests.

### Venue

S.H. Reynolds Lecture Theatre (Room G25), Department of Earth Sciences, University of Bristol, Wills Memorial Building, Queen's Road, Bristol BS8 1RJ. For directions see <http://www.gly.bris.ac.uk/about/directions.html>.

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