



FIGURE 3.17. Feathered dinosaurs, like those from which birds evolved. These fossilized vertebrae of a tyrannosauroid from the Early Cretaceous show filamentous structures (*upper* portion of rock) thought to represent protofeathers.

3.17, reprinted from Xu X. et al., *Nature* **431**: 680–684, © 2004 Macmillan, www.nature.com