

FOSSIL  
HUNTERS

# The TINY TITANOSAURS

Luis Chiappe's Dinosaur Nests



by Natalie Lunis

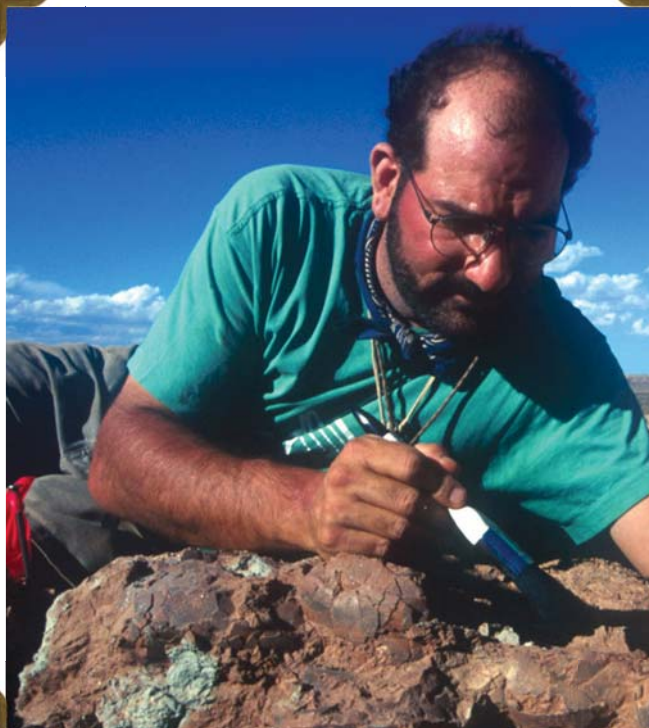


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# The TINY TITANOSAURS

**Luis Chiappe's Dinosaur Nests**



**by Natalie Lunis**

Consultant: Dr. Luis M. Chiappe, Director  
The Dinosaur Institute  
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

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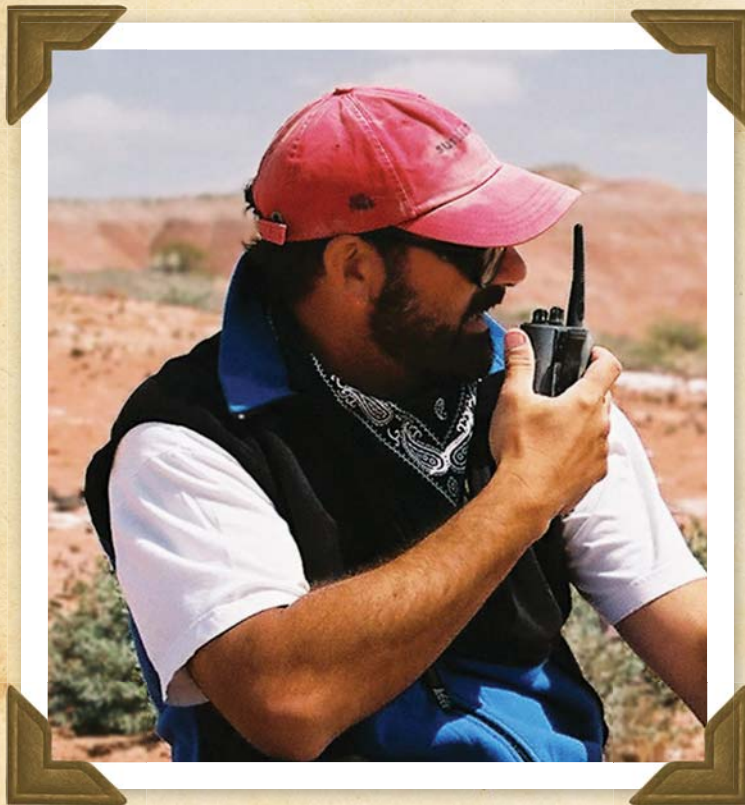
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# A Lucky Day

Luis Chiappe (kee-AH-pay) did not take his eyes off the ground. He and his team had come to the **badlands** of Patagonia (pat-uh-GOH-nee-uh) in search of **fossils**. Now they walked back and forth, scanning the dry, rocky earth for scraps of **ancient** bone.



**Luis Chiappe**



Patagonia is a huge area in South America. It is larger than Texas and Oklahoma put together. Most of Patagonia is in Argentina. A small part is in Chile (CHIL-ay).



Like all good fossil hunters, the team knew that one small piece of bone is often a clue that more bones are buried nearby. On a lucky day, one piece might even lead to a huge skeleton or other rare fossil.

Today would turn out to be very, very lucky. The team was about to find lots of fossils—but not the kind that they expected.



**The badlands where the team searched are dry and dusty and surrounded by low hills.**



# Searching for Early Birds

Luis Chiappe was a **paleontologist** working at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. Yet he knew the badlands well.

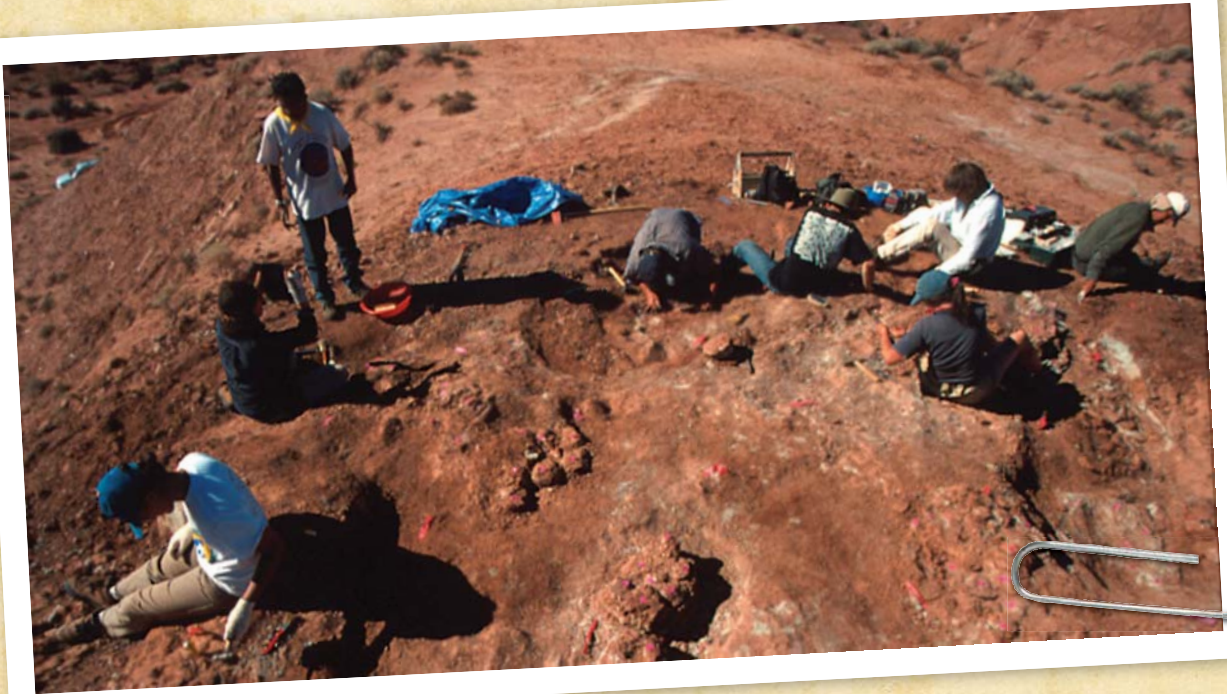
Luis was born in Argentina. He had studied with some of the country's leading scientists. He often went with them on **expeditions** to Patagonia. There, they hunted for the bones of dinosaurs, ancient birds, turtles, and crocodiles.

Luis often searched for the fossils of ancient birds, such as *Neuquenornis*. This drawing shows what the bird might have looked like.





Now, in November of 1997, Luis was back in Patagonia. He was leading a new expedition in a desert-like area near a **volcano** called Auca Mahuida (OW-kuh *mah*-HWEE-duh). His team's goal was to find the remains of ancient birds. Once the team got there, they found something very different but just as exciting.



Luis's team was made up of scientists and students from both the United States and Argentina.

Auca Mahuida is an extinct volcano. This kind of volcano probably will not erupt again.



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## About the Author

Natalie Lunis has written more than two dozen science and nature books for children. She hunts for fossils at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.



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Luis Chiappe did not take his eyes off the ground. He and his team had come to the badlands of Patagonia in search of fossils. Now they walked back and forth, scanning the dry, rocky earth for scraps of ancient bone.

Soon the team came upon a sight no fossil hunter had ever seen before. The ground was covered with ancient eggshells. In some places, they couldn't walk without stepping on them. Luis knew he had to figure out what kind of dinosaur had laid these eggs—and what huge disaster had stopped them from hatching.

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of Los Angeles County

**The *Albertosaurus* Mystery**  
Philip Currie's Hunt in the Badlands

**The *Oviraptor* Adventure**  
Mark Norell and the Egg Thief

**The Fossil Feud**  
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**A *T. rex* Named Sue**  
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**The Tiny Titanosaurs**  
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