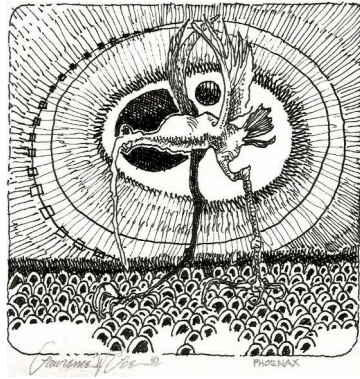


A Field Guide to Dragons

Volume 1

Lawrence W. Lee



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***"Wind be gentle, scale be strong,
sleep now while I sing this song.
Pass the night, though dark it seems,
in happy drift through dragon dreams."***

*Ancient dragon lullaby -
Translation by Lawrence W. Lee, C.E., IDWS*



This book has been reviewed and approved by the
International Dragon Watchers Society™

DragonGuide.com



I am not authorized to speak on behalf of all the many dragons with which we share this world, but feel compelled to note that climate change is having a massive impact on dragon species and societies both large and small. They are suffering greatly, and there seems little they can do to save themselves. That task is therefore left to me and you, and I cannot do it alone.

Lawrence W. Lee, 2015

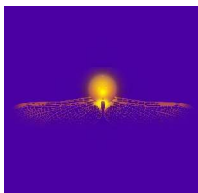
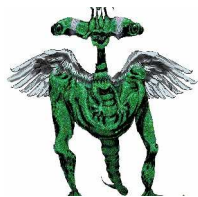
C.E., IDWS

INTRODUCTION



Dragons have co-existed with human beings for millennia. They are most likely an intelligent, distant relative of the dinosaurs of old, though it is unclear whether they survived the cataclysmic events resulting in the extinction of their cousins because of some already extant trait, or because adaptive mutations occurred during this period which resulted not only in their survival, but also in their current physiology.

Dragons are almost always covered with scales, especially upon dorsal surfaces, though the scales range from armor-like plates on some to very fragile micro-scales—soft as butterflies' wings—on others. Variation in size among dragon species is remarkable; they range from the diminutive pocket dragon to gigantic ice- and sand dragons.



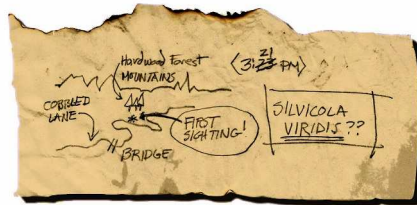
Dragons are quite diverse in coloration as well. An astounding number of hues and patterns decorate some varieties, especially *Draco Pratum Maculosus* (spotted meadow dragon), in which outrageous color and design seem to perform an as yet ill-understood survival function.

Most dragons are strictly vegetarian, though some small types are known to include a variety of insects in their diet. A few of the larger dragons are omnivorous, however, and should be avoided if obviously hungry. There are certain terrible tales of dragons gleefully making a banquet of human flesh and bones, but evidence of such behavior is circumstantial at best, and the stories may well be merely further examples of the inauspicious public image that dragons have suffered for the past twenty centuries.

This fact is in turn due to perhaps the most vitally important mystery of all when it comes to dragons and men:

all of us can see them, but only the pure of heart can ever hope to remember what they have seen.

Yes, dragons are very real. They live with us on this Earth and play no small part in the affairs of humankind. But some men will forever refuse to believe, and will continue to ridicule those who do. They will trot out their machines of science to prove that dragons cannot possibly exist, and will demonstrate time and again that what they claim is logically true. Nevertheless, logic has nothing to do with the truth of primary assumptions, and truth, in the end, is merely that which we believe to be true. Truth is no more than a consensus of belief—beyond proof: in the end, for all of us, it is merely a convenient illusion.



Handwritten note of first ever sighting of Draco Silvicola Viridis.

Those possessed of open minds and loving hearts, you may be sure, will have no doubt of what they see. Dragons are, after all, quite obvious, and as real as any forgotten dream suddenly—breathtakingly—remembered.

One bit of human folklore relative to dragons is that they are attracted to gold and may be easily enlisted to the task of guarding treasures. This is true to a degree, but treasure dragons are actually quite rare, and other dragons favor freedom and mobility too greatly to accept lightly the restrictive confinement that such guardianship demands.



Typical dragon watcher's kit.

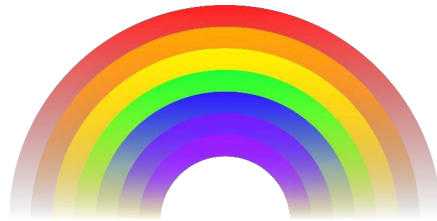
On the other hand, it is also true that most dragons are, in fact, quite attracted to gold, as well as to the sparkle of silver and the shine of copper and polished jade. In fact, they seem to be almost compulsively curious about everything that sparkles and shines—whether mirrors or marbles or crystals of snow. Even the sun's reflections upon the ripples in a stream may hold a dragon spellbound for hours. It is not that they are simple minded, but that they take great pleasure in even the simplest of things—a trait which we humans seem to lose with the passing of childhood and only rarely regain.

There are actually quite a number of dragon charms, ranging from marshmallows to flute music to prisms and tears, a fact of considerable importance in your dragon-watching activities. A carefully laid trail of marshmallows can lead a dragon straight to your door, and a single fallen tear may bring you a friend forever.

Several other characteristics seem common to most dragons. They tend to catch colds easily and are not at all pleasant company as long as the sniffles persist. They are often clumsy and prone to falling out of trees and off ledges if there is insufficient room for both tail and toes. And, finally, they tend to be extremely stubborn, especially when it comes to matters of the heart.

One of the most fascinating and least understood aspects of dragon life is the mystery surrounding the hatching of their eggs. Dragons are generally reticent about such matters, refusing even to recognize that you have asked a question if they consider it to be in the least intrusive or indelicate. Thus, most of what is known of the intimate lives of dragons is based on quite isolated instances of accidental observation.

Nevertheless, the most intrinsically beautiful phase of the dragon's procreative process is also the most celebrated and oft-observed among humans. These events relate to the hatching of a dragon egg, which is often heralded by the appearance of a rainbow. No one knows whether the rainbow plays some active part in causing the egg to hatch or whether the egg, when hatching is imminent, somehow modifies its external environment, thus helping to create the rainbow. Whichever may be the case, the event is certainly one of the most colorful and spectacular in all the world. When a rainbow appears, many of the dragons in the vicinity will come together in groups of a dozen or more in respectful celebration until it finally fades from view. The heavenly arch has gone, the solemn groups have dispersed, the egg has hatched, and a new dragon is ready to begin sharing its life with us.





Scientific Name: Draco Domesticus

Common Name: House dragon

Habitat: Human dwellings all over the world.

It is doubtful that there exists anywhere in the world a house without its own resident dragon. House dragons are invariably small creatures—usually smaller, even, than a mouse—regardless of the size of the particular house in which they live. Their scales are very fine and soft and usually a sort of dusty tan color, though quite a few local variations have been observed from town to town. Perhaps the most notable characteristic of these domestic types—other than the fact that they are voiceless—is that they have a very strong compulsion to gather lint. Whether for purposes of nest building alone or as the result of some inherited drive for tidiness, no one knows, but the ever present tufts and pillows of lint found in corners, beneath chairs and under the bed are a sure and certain sign that your own house dragon has been busy while you sleep. It is also believed that house dragons engage in mischievous games of hide and seek with any cats or kittens which may share the same abode, thus explaining those nightly noises of scampering feet across the rug and down the hall.

Scientific Name: Draco Thesaurus

Common Name: Treasure dragon

Habitat: Secret places.

Treasure dragons are typically secretive, but not unduly so by human standards. They are known to keep watch over all manner of treasure, from gold and silver and precious jewels to the more prosaic but nevertheless valuable treasures of moth and butterfly wings and shiny pennies and cat's eye marbles treasured dearly by children of all ages. They sport feathery wings and have been noted to vary in hue from purple to gold and all the colors in between. Befriend a treasure dragon and it will be your friend for life, but only if tasked with guarding your own personal treasure. Those already occupied with guarding the treasures of others are usually best avoided unless you have been given the secret word or phrase that will permit them to share a good view of that treasure under its charge.





Scientific Name: Draco Culina
Common Name: Kitchen dragon
Habitat: Domestic kitchens with crowded pantries and cupboards full of metal pots and pans.

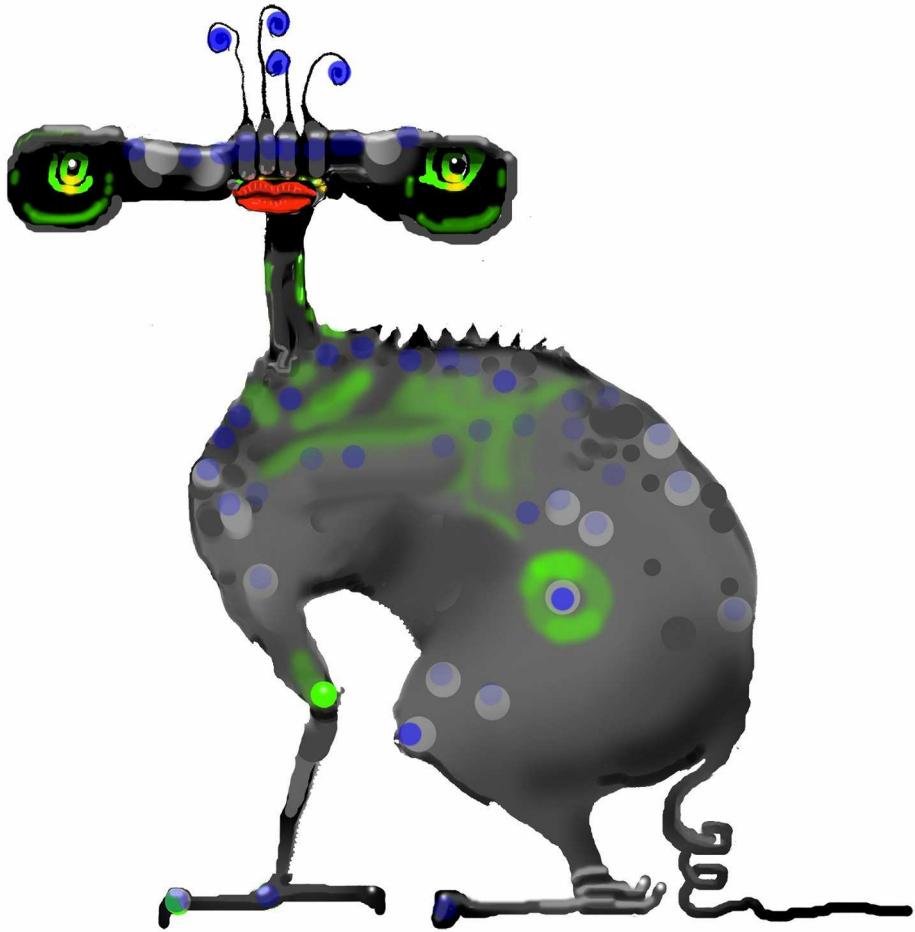
Though it may seem reasonable to assume that kitchen dragons are closely related to the more common *Draco Domesticus*, this is not the case. In fact, the only real similarity is their size. The larger and more easily distinguished scales of *Draco Culina* are invariably a bright copper or silvery color that perfectly matches the pots and pans among which they hide. A kitchen dragon's voice sounds rather like a squeaky hinge, and is apparently used to map out the contents of a pitch-black pantry from the faint echoes received by its unusual, cup-shaped ears. Seemingly misplaced kitchen utensils are often a problem in kitchens called home by one of these dragons, though no one knows why they move things around so. Usually, however, this behavior is tolerated with a smile because of the additional fact that kitchen dragons refuse to share the larder with any of the common kitchen pests such as crickets and mice, and are quite thoroughly tidy and clean themselves.

Scientific Name: Draco Hortus

Common Name: Garden dragon

Habitat: Small, colorful flower gardens tended by a grandmother or other loving person.

Garden dragons are a joy to be around, both because of their resplendently varied and vibrant coloration and because of their pleasant personalities. Never growing much more in height than the length of a woman's hand, garden dragons tend to live with their parents when young and as lifelong mated couples as adults. Their daily obligations are few and simple, consisting largely of tending the garden in which they have chosen to reside. Garden dragons are much to be desired as helpers because of their happy dispositions and their considerable gardening skills. Indeed, flower gardens in which a family dragon resides are quite easily identified because they are the least weedy and most beautifully arranged and colorful in town.





Scientific Name: Draco Desertus

Common Name: Desert dragon

Habitat: Near-equatorial and temperate zone deserts.

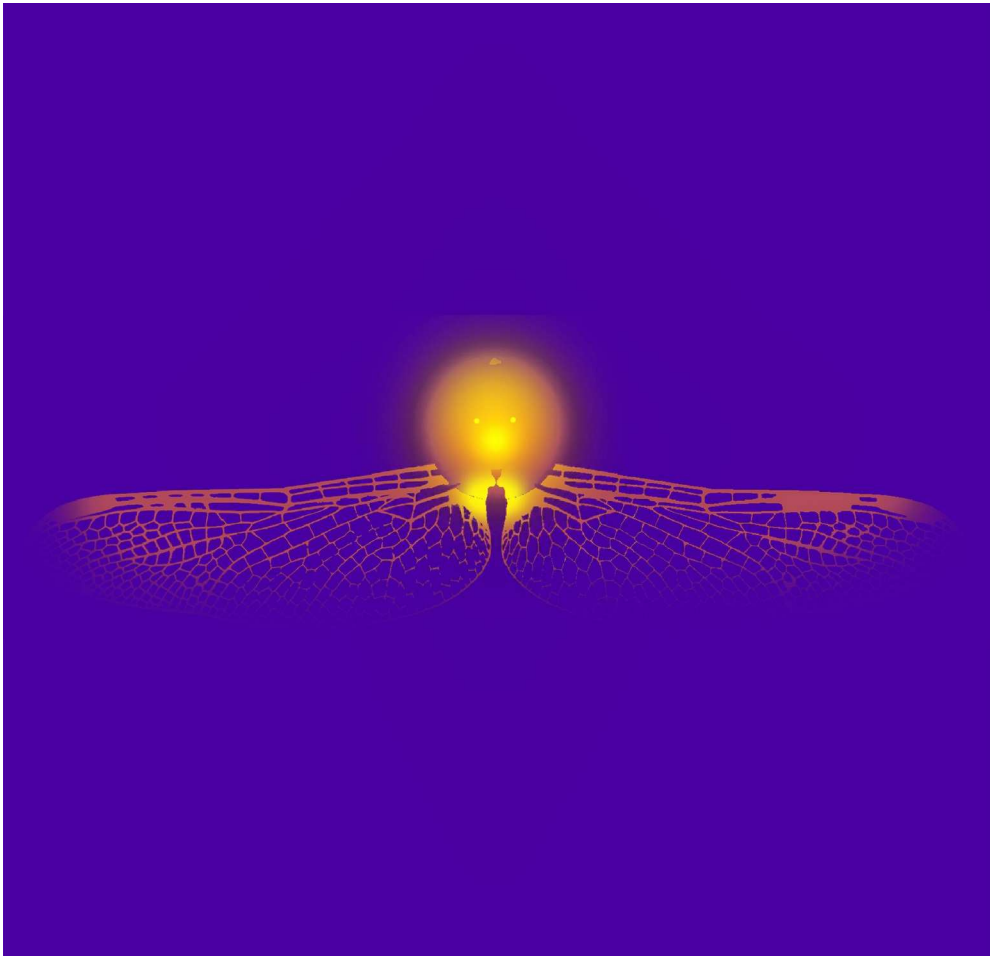
Of the two major types of desert-dwelling dragons, Draco Desertus is by far the most widespread and easy to identify. Its range of coloration tends toward the reds, browns and tans, and most have intricately patterned scale designs which help them blend into the sandy texture of the desert floor. These small dragons, in fact, resemble many desert-dwelling lizards except that their hind legs are quite thin and long, lifting their bodies as much as a hand's width above the ground and contributing greatly to their remarkable agility and fleetness of foot. Each foot has four toes which form a perfect X in the sand where they have trod, making it near impossible for others to tell by the footprints alone whether the dragon was coming or going as it passed.

Scientific Name: Draco Nympha

Common Name: Fairy dragon

Habitat: Wooded glades of lush grass and flowers where the dew collects in the hollows of fallen leaves, and the arch of a star-filled night may be found reflected a million-fold in drops clinging to the tip of each grassy blade.

Fairy dragons are creatures of the warm, dark hours before midnight, slipping out from their hidden forest homes among the massive tree trunks and exposed roots nearby to celebrate the passing of day in its last ruddy glow. They live in groups of twenty or so and are hardly ever seen alone, a fact which may be due to their obvious joy in singing together in complicated counterpoint with magically sweet and clear, high-pitched voices. Fairy dragons seem to subsist entirely upon the cool, rich nourishment of new-fallen dew and are a threat to no person or thing—other than perhaps with their well known weakness for mischievous tricks played upon those who wander unknowingly into their woodland domain. Some maintain that fairy dragons are truly and astonishingly magical and guard a softly glowing entranceway to other worlds. Sadly, this has yet to be proven.



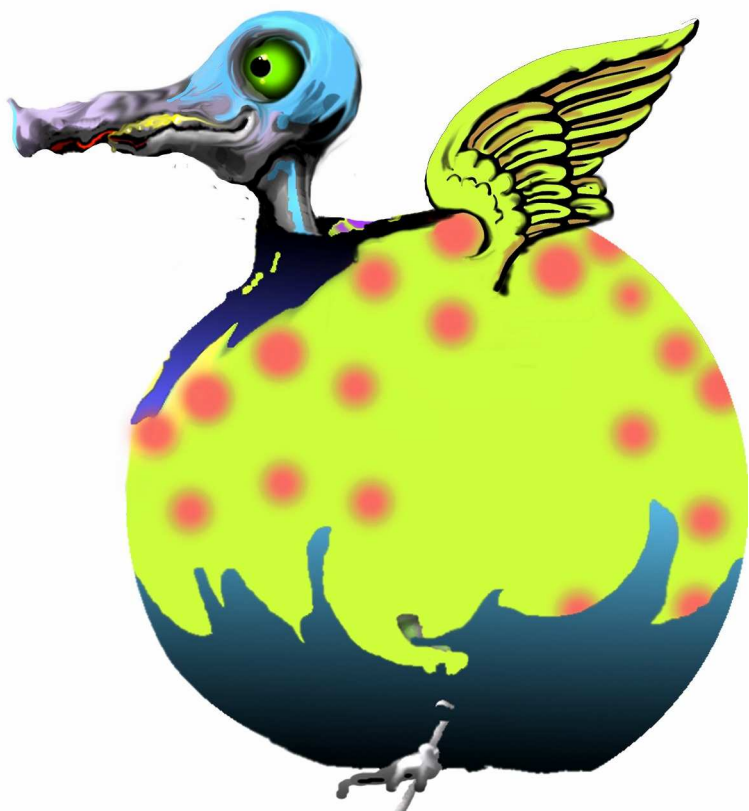


Scientific Name: Draconis Harena Vastus
Common Name: Giant sand dragon
Habitat: Desert areas consisting primarily of wind-formed dunes extending over large geographic areas.

Giant sand dragons are relatively few in number but among the largest found on this planet. Specialized coloration makes them almost indistinguishable from their environment of rippled, sandy mounds. This, coupled with an extraordinary ability to shape their massive bodies in imitation of the surrounding dunes, makes them all but invisible to even the most diligent observer. Very little is known about them, and how they manage to subsist on the extremely sparse desert vegetation remains a great mystery. One theory posits that they obtain moisture by utilizing many thousands of micro-tubules that open just below each scale to condense tiny drops of water from the desert's relatively more humid morning air. It is said that sometimes at dawn when the wind begins to stir—if you are very, very quiet—you can even hear them sing.

Scientific Name: Draconis Mel
Common Name: Honey dragon
Habitat: Wherever honey bees are found.

There are no two ways about it: honey dragons are cute. About the size of a child's teddy bear, they are almost always a bit on the pudgy side and possessed of a constant and disarmingly happy, self-satisfied grin—except, of course, when they are hungry and there is no honey in sight. They tend to roam the gardens and glades where bee trees are most easily found, but they are not above sneaking through an open window to help empty a honey pot left unattended upon a kitchen counter or abandoned at a breakfast table. Their small wings help them to perform a sort of gliding hop from tree to rock to garden fence or window sill, but the wings are of little use when the dragon's tummy is too full of honey. Honey dragons are not stupid creatures, although it is often difficult to steer their conversation away from the topic of honey, about which they have oh so much to say. In fact, they will occasionally say something which sounds quite wise, then turn a knowing grin your way and smile with both their lips and eyes.





Scientific Name: Draco Murmurare

Common Name: Humming dragon

Habitat: Free ranging throughout the world, though most often encountered in quiet rural areas.

Though humming dragons were once thought to be quite rare, it is now believed that they are actually rather abundant, and that their shy and retiring manner is responsible for their apparent scarcity. They are rather small and nondescript as dragons go, save for the carefree melodies they frequently hum. Their voices are soft and easily drowned out by wind or waterfall or noisy human activity, and must be listened for earnestly if they are to be heard in any but the most quiet of times. While the tunes and descants of the Murmurare are most often original, the dragons are not averse to mellifluously rendering melodies which they or their ancestors simply overheard while lingering near some human village or town. When two such dragons encounter each other in their daily wanderings, they seem disposed to hum in beautiful close harmony, and there are in fact reports that an occasional group of four will form, and that this dragon counterpart of a barbershop quartet will hum in concert until the last rich reds and violets of twilight are finally covered by the star-flecked shawl of night.

Scientific Name: **Draco Caverna**

Common Name: **Cave dragon**

Habitat: **Worldwide in caves sufficient in size and gentle in slope.**

Cave dragons are almost always slate gray in color and ill in temper, a condition perhaps best described as a sort of perpetual grouchiness. This situation—coupled with the fact that cave dragons do indeed breathe fire—is undoubtedly the root cause of most medieval dragon lore. In actual fact, however, these creatures are some of the most timid and shy of them all. The sad truth is that their bashfulness probably caused their retreat into caves in the first place, their ill temper derives from the obvious discomfort of living in such a cold and clammy world, and their fire is merely an attempt to vent excess gas produced by a complex and highly acidic digestive system. The cave dragon's diet consists almost entirely of mushrooms and moss—a fact which in itself might explain their sour disposition. Still, when approached with gentle sympathy, these dragons can become quite friendly and talkative. Beware, however, of staying to listen too long, as they are not above scheming to create a captive audience in danger of being talked to death.





Scientific Name: Draco Sacculus

Common Name: Pocket dragon

Habitat: Worldwide, wherever large pockets or small cloth bags are found.

These small dragons (never more than five centimeters in height) are typically shy and quiet creatures, and so retiring that you may search for years before finding one, and certainly never without the help of the person whose pocket it calls home. They vary considerably in color, but most are either blue or brown, and they seem most attracted to older gentlemen—such as grandfathers—or those quiet folk who watch the passing days from a favorite park bench. Pocket dragons are fiercely loyal and share much love with those who might otherwise be all alone.

Scientific Name: Draco Palus

Common Name: Marsh dragon

Habitat: Lowland areas worldwide, except in the tropics.

Dragons inhabiting the coastal and near-coastal lowlands are semi-aquatic creatures that share many of the personality characteristics of cave dragons, as well as the ability to breathe fire. Living in a marsh can sometimes be quite unpleasant, even for dragons so well adapted to the demands of that forever damp and dreary environment. Marsh dragons are most active at night, searching out the tiny mushrooms which grow near the ghostly green light of rotting logs, and they may in fact be responsible for countless reports of mysterious lights in the dread black hours before dawn which have been explained away as “marsh gas.” Marsh dragons vary considerably in size, shape, and coloration, and are often quite awesome in appearance—especially one particular variety whose luminescent scales manifest an eerie blue glow on any sufficiently dark and humid night.





Scientific Name: Draconis Pomarium
Common Name: Orchard Dragon
Habitat: Fruit orchards all over the world.

The fully grown orchard dragon rarely exceeds twenty-five centimeters in height and weighs only about as much as a large orange. Its coloration ranges from pale yellow to a warm leaf green, and it is often covered with spots of contrasting value from early spring to late fall, these spreading or darkening to gray or brown as winter arrives in earnest. Orchard dragons tend to be somewhat less than graceful even in their natural world of trunks and branches, and their small wings appear to get in the way more often than to aid in balance during frequent hops from limb to limb. Orchard dragons are good natured and friendly folk—even when embarrassingly intoxicated by the consumption of fermenting fruit which may be left behind after harvest. The most notable consequences of this spirited indulgence are incapacitating hiccups and a staggering clumsiness, all of which result in an orchestration of hiccups punctuated by the occasional soft thud of a dragon who has fallen completely out of his tree.

Scientific Name: Draco Tectum

Common Name: Roof dragon

Habitat: Worldwide.

Roof dragons are often heard but almost never seen—such is their penchant for privacy and peace. They live a nomadic life, moving at their personal, mysterious whim from rooftop to rooftop within the darkness of night, rarely staying in one place for more than a few hours before moving to another roof or the roofs of another sleeping town. No one knows why these dragons have taken to the this wanderers' life among the chimneys and shingles above our heads, but there is speculation that they are related to another and much more rare dragon species: Draco Nomadis, which refuses to consider even a humble human's roof as home. Roof dragons are thought to range from one-half to one meter in length including a short, dorsally serrated tail, and conspicuously tiny wings. Little is known of their temperament save that we have nothing to fear. In fact, the creaks and groans and scrabble-scratch noises we sometimes hear above us at night should be considered the best of luck, for no dreadful beast will ever come close to a dragon-guarded roof, and children in bed below need have no fear as they sleepily drift into their personal worlds of breathless adventure and happy dreams.





Scientific Name: Draco Pratum Maculosus

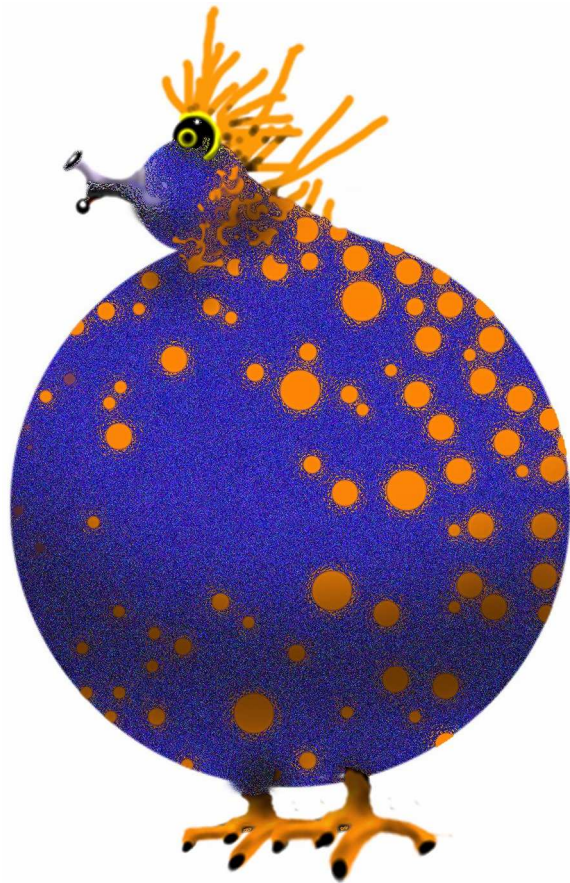
Common Name: Spotted meadow dragon

**Habitat: Bright meadows of green grass and flowers,
most notably in the United States and Europe.**

Oddly, not all spotted meadow dragons are spotted. In fact, they have come to be decorated with a myriad of shapes and patterns, some being spotted, others checkered or swirled or striped. Each is different, but all are brightly colored as the blossoms of spring. They are never much larger than a three-month-old kitten and almost always as playful, cavorting through their afternoons with enthusiastic, grass-topping hops and never-ending rounds of follow-the-leader. With the coming of twilight they end their games and browse through the sweet green shoots of tender grass, finally settling down into happy dreams in which they continue, forever and always, to play.

Scientific Name: **Draco Pratum Maculosus Juvenilis**
Common Name: **Spotted meadow dragon (young form)**
Habitat: **Bright meadows of green grass and flowers,
most notably in the United States and Europe.**

Juvenile members of the Pratum species can be heard quite easily (a soft, dry clicking sound) but almost never seen. They are tiny when first hatched—no larger than the twinkle in an old woman's eye—but grow quickly through the first warm days of spring, rapidly developing the characteristic Pratum crest, though a year might pass before it begins to sport the adult Pratum's loopy curl. And it will be yet another full year before they show even a hint of a tail. For much of this time, they seem to do little but eat and dream and watch their parents play.





Scientific Name: Draco Frigidium

Common Name: Ice dragon

Habitat: The northern realm.

Draco Frigidium is generally known as one of the larger dragon types, ranging from approximately two meters in the case of fresh-water Ice dragons to as much as twenty meters in height for those magnificent, crystal-clawed kings of the glacial north. Though large in stature, these dragons are surprisingly light in weight due to special adaptations which have allowed them to survive the rigors of dreadful cold. Their scales, for instance, though appearing white, are in reality crystal clear, but filled with tiny air pockets that lighten the body so movement through powder snow and upon glacial ice is less hazardous. Some ice dragons even appear to have colored scales, but this is actually because sunlight, when striking these scales at an angle of less than twenty degrees, will refract into brilliant spectra—a not uncommon but most remarkable sight. Neither jovial nor sour, ice dragons tend toward a rather stolid indifference, no doubt a natural consequence of their isolated existence. They are not quick to anger but can cause considerable damage if threatened—ranging from glacial fracture to avalanche—and are therefore best treated with respectful consideration, even deference.

Scientific Name: Draco Nocturnus

Common Name: Night dragon

Habitat: Worldwide, but generally favoring woodland areas and wind-swept strands of northern heath.

Though many dragon species are found to roam the countryside at night, none are better suited to times of darkness than night dragons. They possess an uncanny stealth even though they are usually quite large, and their soot-black, leather-like scales absorb all but the brightest light of a full moon at its zenith. They move slowly but with the grace of hidden strength and self-confident power. They are reticent creatures and have little patience with the questions of human travelers who might also be about during those darkest hours, and the magically mellifluous rumble of their voices, once heard, is not soon forgotten. Little is known of what business these creatures might be about during their quiet hours beneath the star-strewn, velvet sky, and few would dare to ask. Yet they do not seem to trade in evil ways, and there are even tales told in which lost children have found their way through the night unscathed while under a Night dragon's protective spell.





Scientific Name: Draco Urbus

Common Name: City dragon

Habitat: Any city large enough to have more than one apartment or office building over five stories tall.

City dragons frequent the alleyways, storm drains, subways and pipe-covered rooftops of large urban areas. Most are constantly on the move within the city, never staying in one place more than a few nights at most, although a few have been known to set up semi-permanent housekeeping on the rooftops of buildings where they can keep a watchful eye on the streets below. In terms of personality the best that can be said of city dragons is that they are unpredictable—often happy and helpful but at times prone to fits of depression. When depressed, they can cause no end of trouble by clogging up vents with wads of old newspaper, short-circuiting elevator motors, and, in winter, knocking great slabs of snow off building ledges to fall in a bothersome white flurry upon passersby below. The voices of city dragons have come to mimic many of the city's own sounds, and one can never be quite sure that those clatterings, chatterings and thumps are the noises of human workers down the street or the calls of a dragon just around the corner.

Scientific Name: Draco Nimbus

Common Name: Cloud dragon

Habitat: Aerial; concentrated in temperate zones at altitudes ranging from 3,000 meters down to less than 30 meters in some mountainous areas.

Although many in number and spread throughout areas of moderate climate, cloud dragons are among the most elusive of all dragons in that they have developed an uncanny ability to remain hidden among the billows and folds of spring and summer clouds—in some cases apparently even shaping the clouds themselves so as to create an effective disguise. There are, however, occasions upon which the clouds reveal or echo the form of the dragon hidden within. The reason for this remains in some dispute, but there is a growing body of evidence which suggests that an unbridled sense of humor may be the cause. In any event, such occasions are by far the best for watching cloud dragons because all dragons in the vicinity are likely to be caught up in the spirit of fun, and an entire scale (the term used to denote any group of three or more dragons) may thus be clearly observed.





Scientific Name: Draco Fluvialis

Common Name: River dragon

Habitat: The shallow, slow-moving waters near the banks of rivers and streams throughout the world.

River dragons tend to be fairly large as adults, averaging slightly less than two meters to the tops of their heads. Their scales are usually shades of greens and blues and appear in intricately deceptive patterns across the dragons' backs, often enclosed in a tattered web of lighter colors. A long, spiraling tail provides most of the river dragon's motive force for swimming, and their bulbous cheeks are used as flotation bladders for maintaining the dragon's preferred level of buoyancy just below the water's surface. Well known for their gentleness, they are strictly vegetarian and spend most waking moments searching out delicacies from among the various aquatic plants at the river's edge.

Scientific Name: Draconis Mons
Common Name: Mountain dragon
Habitat: Mountainous areas, usually well above the tree line.

Mountain dragons are majestic lords of cold blue and gray who survey a wind-swept kingdom of perpetually bitter winter wind and hard-packed snow. They are related to ice dragons, with whom they share many personality traits and basic physical features, including special adaptations which allow them to survive even the most unrelenting cold. Some mountain dragons are fire-breathers, though this is more the exception than the rule, and some have wings, of a sort, as well. Not much is known about their daily fare, and even less about their reasons for choosing such a stern and unforgiving realm as their home, but some say it could be that these dragons are great builders who sculpt their castle dreams in ice and snow rather than in stone. Indeed, remnants of such structures have been reported in northern minstrels' tales, and some will swear that there exists in the far reaches of the north a magically beautiful dragon city of sparkling ice and pure white snow.





Scientific Name: Draco Silvicola

Common Name: Forest dragon or, in the southern United States, woods dragon

Habitat: Forests of all types (but usually dark and deep and not including rainforests or forests in the sea).

Forest dragons are most often one to two meters in height but are known to exceed three meters in some European, North American, and Eurasian forests—most notably in portions of Siberia and the Canadian Northwest Territories. Their coloration ranges from a velvety navy blue to pale grays and greens, and they are often variously patterned or mottled so as to blend into the dappled colors of the forest floor. Usually quiescent during the day, forest dragons begin to stir with the purple and golden hues of twilight and use their keen sense of smell to forage for berries until the wee hours of morning. Forest dragons are unabashedly curious, and they are likely to startle the occasional traveler with their innocent nosing about—an occurrence which has undoubtedly given birth to many a fearful tale about hideous, red eyed and bloodthirsty beasts that haunt the forests in the night.

Scientific Name: Draco Sepulcrum
Common Name: Grave dragon
Habitat: Cemeteries and graveyards.

There is probably not a single graveyard or cemetery anywhere which does not harbor at least one grave dragon. Even so, these dragons are not often seen by human eyes. Grave dragons are a secretive and unfriendly sort, living, as they do, with the damp earth and cold stone markers of life passed into another world. They sleep silently through each day and begin to stir only as midnight approaches, moving stealthily from grave to tomb to mausoleum and back, stopping occasionally to hiss or moan as in anger or despair. No one knows why grave dragons live as they do, isolated within this ghostly world of ivy-draped marble and forgotten dreams, and the dragons will not say. There is no proof that these creatures are evil, but best beware. Stories are told of lost or foolhardy children who have walked into graveyards on cold and moonless nights never to be seen again. Their footprints wander the frosty grass and then stop short. And with the gray light of morning, even these disappear.





Scientific Name: Draco Filix

Common Name: Fern dragon

Habitat: Greenhouses, sun rooms, and sunny parlors frequented by one or more ladies of a certain age and genteel upbringing who are well-practiced in the art of afternoon tea.

One of the relatively few dragon species which has come to live exclusively indoors, Fern dragons are most often a leafy green in color and small enough to sit comfortably in an otherwise empty teacup. These dragons do not lose their scales unless ill—a tidy adaptation to life indoors—and in many cases they have adapted to such an extent that they have literally taken on the personality characteristics of their human roommates. Consequently, some fern dragons will be forever prim and proper, while others persist in being angry and sour and spend most of their time hissing at any unlucky caller from within their personal forest of fern leaves and red clay pots.

Lawrence W. Lee has been a professional artist for over forty years. His paintings are in thousands of fine private collections, corporate collections, and museums around the world. Best known for his paintings of iconic shamanistic figures, he also has a playful side, is a veteran dragon watcher, and a Chairman Emeritus of the **International Dragon Watchers Society™**

DragonGuide.com

Find out more about Lawrence W. Lee,
his life and his art
at

LawrenceLeeArt.com



This book is dedicated to the color Blue.
You know that you've always been my favorite!

Lawrence J. Lee ©



