

WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

The Foam-nest Tree Frog

THE Foam-nest Tree Frog lives in the hot areas of southern Africa. Unlike most frogs, it doesn't spend much time in the water, but is often found near buildings, where light attracts insects, which these frogs feed on.

Although most frogs lay their eggs in water, when the time comes for the female foam-nest frog to lay her eggs, she climbs a tree! She always makes sure that the branch is hanging over some water, even though it may be several metres above the water level. Having chosen her spot she produces a sticky liquid, and, using her back legs rather like a



A Foam-nest Tree Frog

Photo by Brian Gratwicke: Wikipedia

food whisk, beats this into a foam. She then lays up to 1,000 eggs into this nest of foam, where they are fertilized by male frogs. The foam nest keeps the eggs moist until it's time for them to hatch. About five days after hatching, the tiny tadpoles drop into the water below, where they grow and become frogs.

Some questions for those who believe in evolution: Why don't these frogs lay their eggs in water, which would be less trouble? How did they begin to climb trees? How did they learn that the nest needed to be over water? How do they know that their eggs need to be kept moist? Did they gradually evolve the ability to make their foam nests? If so, how did the eggs survive in the meantime?

There are no problems for those who believe that God created them the way they are.



A tree-frog's foam nest

Photo by Brian Gratwicke: Wikipedia

A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT!

For centuries people watched birds flying, and longed to copy them. We are so used to seeing aircraft that it's hard to believe that the first powered planes only took to the air 110 years ago. Although there had been some success with gliders, it was not until 1903 that the Wright brothers, after years of experimenting, finally succeeded in flying a plane with an engine. A great achievement! Flying machines have to be designed to fly — you can't make a plane by adding wings to a motor car!



The Wright brothers' first powered flight, 1903

Photo: U.S. Library of Congress

There is no evidence that creatures that fly evolved from non-flying ancestors, and it seems impossible that they could have. Like planes, they needed to be designed for flight from the start. We believe that God created them, and gave us eyes to see and marvel at these wonders. We should give Him the credit, and worship Him, for He is a wonderful God!



A hummingbird — one of God's designs

Photo by Brocken Inagony: Wikipedia

Does this Creator-God care about us? He does, and He loves us, too. Even though we have all done wrong things and don't deserve His love, God sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross so that we could be forgiven. The Bible says: "Christ died for us while we were still sinners. In this way God shows his great love for us." (*Romans 5: 8*). Jesus also rose from the dead so that we could live with Him for ever if we accept him. That's what we were designed for!

PUZZLE ANSWERS

- SPOT THE DIFFERENCE**
1. Missing spots on kite.
 2. Ribbon colour changed.
 3. Shirt colour changed.
 4. Shorts colour changed.
 5. Hair colour changed.
 6. Colour of shoes changed.
 7. Nose added to kite.
 8. Extra flowers on grass.
 9. Bird facing opposite way.
 10. Colour of clouds changed.
- HIDDEN BIRDS:**
1. Starling.
 2. Fieldfare.
 3. Heron.
 4. Thrush.
 5. Wren.
 6. Swallow.
 7. Petrel.
 8. Grebe.
 9. Lark.
 10. Swan.

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Fossils show no evolution

There is no evidence from fossils that bats evolved from shrew-like ancestors. There are fossil shrews and fossil bats, but nothing between.

If evolution really happened we would expect to find fossils showing those finger bones gradually growing longer, and skin growing to cover the wings, but we don't. In fact, the oldest bat fossils are just like modern bats, even though evolutionists claim they are "50 million years old."



Note the extra-long finger bones in this fossil bat.

Wikipedia photo by Mirof

BATS: AMAZING FLYING MACHINES!

MANY people think bats are scary, but they are really amazing creatures. There are more than 1,000 species of bat, and they are the only mammal with wings. Their wings are supported by extra long fingers on their front claws. When they rest, bats fold their wings, and hang upside down.

Bats are amazing flying machines, and can even navigate in the dark, by sending out high-pitched squeaks, which bounce off objects — rather like the sonar used by submarines. Evolutionists tell us that bats evolved from shrew-like ancestors. But bats are designed for flight, and find walking difficult (lower right), so how would a 'half-bat' creature have moved around?



U.S. Dept. of the Interior



© Geoffrey Kuchera: Dreamstime.com

Some just glide.....

Some creatures that don't have real wings are able to glide through the air. These include the *Common Gliding Lizard* (right). It has extra-long rib bones sticking out on each side of its body which support large flaps of skin. Surely this animal had to be designed for gliding, just as a hang glider (left) has to be properly designed before it's safe to use.



Photo by Biophilia curious: Wikipedia

FISH THAT FLY

Did you know that some fish actually fly? Flying fish, like the one on the right, leap out of the water, and glide using special fins which are used like wings. They can glide as far as 400 metres (1,300 ft), and reach speeds of 70 kilometres per hour (43 mph)! They sometimes fly as much as 6 metres (20 ft) above the surface of the sea, and have even been known to land on the decks of ships!



Wikipedia photo by Ghedogheo



United States NOAA

Wikipedia photo by Audrey

There is no evidence that flying fish evolved from 'ordinary' fish. The oldest fossils, like the one on the left, show they already had their wing-like fins.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
 Glider inspired by birds. Nature Notes: Dragons of the Air. Puzzle Corner. Weird and Wonderful:

GLIDER INSPIRED BY BIRDS!

In 1856, French sailor Jean Marie Le Bris designed a glider after studying the way that albatrosses fly. The glider was 15 metres (50 feet) wide, and named *Albatross*. It was launched from a cart drawn by horses, and is thought to have reached a height of 92 meters (330 feet). In 1868 he built another glider, *Albatross 2*.



Albatross 2 built by Frenchman Jean Marie Le Bris in 1868

The albatross (below) was a very good creature to copy. These birds spend their lives gliding on air currents, only flapping their wings occasionally. They even sleep on the wing, and only land to nest and lay their eggs. They fly thousands of miles each year, from the North to the South Pole and back again.



Le Bris's glider was designed to fly, and, although cleverly made, was not as good as the albatross. Surely the birds which Le Bris copied had to have a Designer too? The Bible says, "God made every bird that flies." (*Genesis 1: 21*). That must have included the albatross.

QUICKER THAN CLIMBING!

There are lots of species of *flying squirrels* in the world. They don't have wings, and don't really fly, but glide from tree-top to tree-top, travelling up to 90 metres (295 feet). They are able to glide because they have large flaps of skin which stretch between their front and back legs.

Did flying squirrels get their flaps of skin through gradual evolution? In 2006, the oldest tree squirrel fossil was found in Mongolia, and the shape of its wing flaps were perfectly preserved in the rock. This tells us that flying squirrels haven't changed.

INDIAN GIANT FLYING SQUIRREL



Wikipedia photo by Pratik Jain

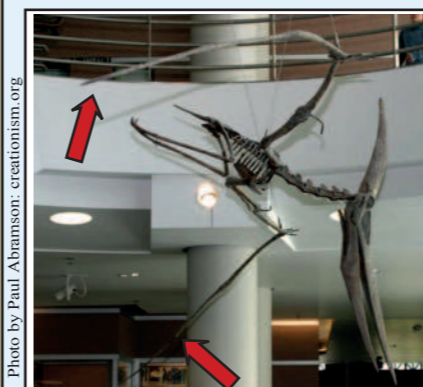
DRAGONS OF THE AIR!

Flying reptiles once soared in the skies, using strong, leathery wings supported by an extra-long fourth finger on their front claws. Some of them, such as the *Pteranodon*, were huge, measuring as much as 12 metres (40 feet) from wing-tip to wing-tip! Their wing bones were hollow, and criss-crossed with tiny braces, just like the frame of a modern jumbo jet. They were designed for both lightness and strength – just what a flying creature needs.



Picture by Nobu Tamura: Wikipedia

Evolutionists believe that flying reptiles evolved from ancestors that lived on the ground, and that gradually, over millions of years, their front legs turned into wings. However, all the fossils of flying reptiles show fully developed wing bones. There are no fossils showing legs becoming wings, or with the fourth finger gradually becoming longer.



A pteranodon fossil. Note the extra-long fourth fingers (arrowed)

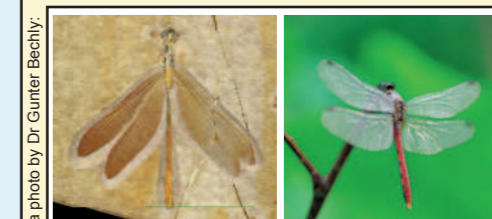
Photo by Paul Abrahams: creationism.org

If you think about it, a creature that was evolving from living on the ground into one that could fly would be unlikely to survive for very long, because it wouldn't be able to walk or fly properly. So the evolution theory doesn't make much sense.

The evidence suggests that flying reptiles were designed to fly from the beginning. They were part of God's amazing creation!

EXPERT FLYERS

The evolution theory says that the first creatures to fly were insects, yet there is no evidence that insects that couldn't fly evolved wings. Flying insects have special muscles to move their wings. Non-flying insects don't have them or need them, so what could they have evolved from? Some of the most expert flyers of the insect world are dragonflies. They have two pairs of wings, and can fly forwards, sideways, and even backwards, and reach speeds of nearly 40 miles (60 km.) an hour.



The fossil dragonfly (above left) with its wings perfectly preserved in the rock, looks the same as the living dragonfly on the right. There are no fossils of dragonflies with partly-evolved wings.

Wikipedia photo by Dr Gunter Bechly:

Chipart.com



The Westland 'Dragonfly'

People who designed helicopters like the one on the left, built them after studying the way that dragonflies fly.

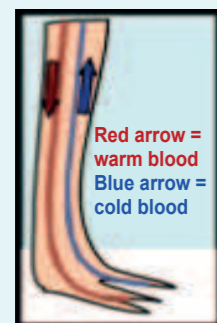
By Milborne One: Wikipedia

NATURE NOTES by the editor

Those of us who live in countries with cold winters, know what it is to sometimes have cold feet. But we can wear warm socks or boots to keep our feet warm. What about birds like ducks, geese and penguins which often have to walk around on snow and ice? They don't have feathers or down on their feet – it would get wet anyway, so wouldn't be much use. So why don't they have frostbite? You've never seen a penguin wearing socks! The answer is that these birds have a special arrangement of blood vessels which act like "heat exchangers." Warm blood flows from their heart through a network of arteries into their legs.



These flow alongside the veins that carry the cold blood back to their heart (see diagram below left). This prevents their feet from freezing when it's very cold.



Red arrow = warm blood
 Blue arrow = cold blood

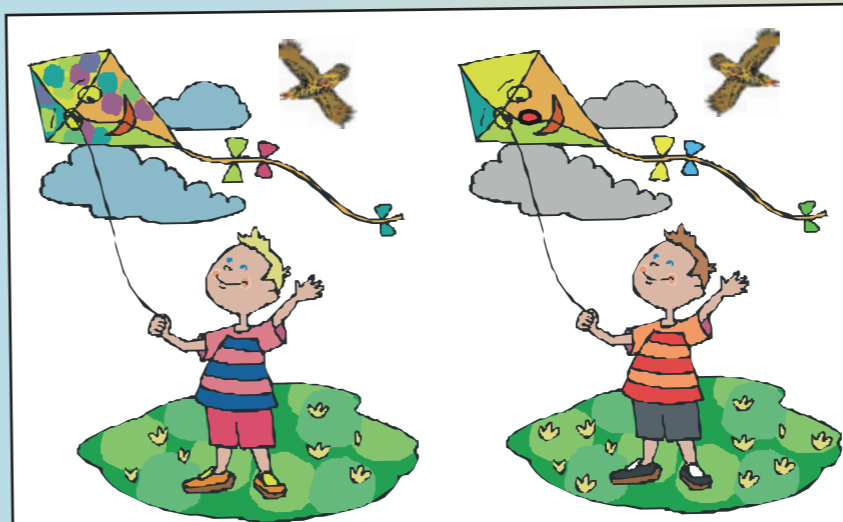
These birds have another way of keeping warm, too. The muscles they use to move their feet are higher up their legs than most birds, so their feathers keep them warm and dry. Therefore they need less blood in their feet. This works very well, which is why birds swim happily around in ice-cold water, and walk around in snow and ice. The question is: did birds gradually evolve this wonderful method of keeping their feet warm? Surely it had to work from the very beginning? It's more logical to believe that God made them that way, so that they could cope with cold conditions when necessary.



— Geoff Chapman

PUZZLE CORNER

There are 10 differences between the first and second pictures. Can you spot them?



HIDDEN BIRDS

Can you find the names of birds hidden in the sentences below?

1. The bright star lingered in the sky.
2. Find a field far enough away.
3. He sat her on the chair.
4. The field was filled with rushes.
5. The crew rented another boat.
6. This wall owner built it himself.
7. Each pet relies on its owner.
8. There was a big rebellion.
9. That was a spectacular kick.
10. I always wanted one of these.

(Answers on the next page)