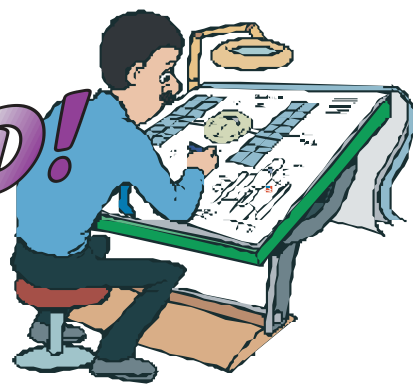


WELL DESIGNED!

Mantis Shrimps



MANTIS Shrimps are marine crustaceans, and despite their name are not true shrimps. These colourful creatures live mostly in tropical waters, and can be up to 36cm. (14 ins.) long.

Mantis shrimps have amazing eyes. In fact, after a recent study, scientists say they have the most incredible eyes in the whole animal Kingdom. Their eyes are mounted on stalks, which can be moved independently. Each eye contains 10,000 clusters of photo-receptor cells, and can see in 12 colours, unlike humans, who only see in 3 colours. Their light-sensitive cells work in a similar way to CD and DVD players, only much better. Dr Nicholas Roberts, who took part in a study of mantis shrimps from the Australian Great Barrier Reef, said his work revealed for the first time "the unique design and mechanism of the mantis shrimp's eye." He wrote in the journal *Nature Photonics*, "It really is exceptional — out-performing anything we humans have so far been able to create... This natural mechanism, comprised of cell membranes rolled into tubes, completely



A Mantis Shrimp

Wikipedia photo by Jenny Huang

outperforms synthetic designs." Dr Roberts believes that by mimicking the eyes of these creatures human engineers will be able to create improved optical devices such as CD and DVD players.

CD and DVD players did not come into existence without intelligence, so it is impossible that a system which "out-performs anything humans have so far been able to create" could do so. The Mantis Shrimps' amazing eyes could never have been produced by evolution. Here is clear and unmistakable evidence for intelligent design by an all-wise Creator.



Close-up of the compound eye of a mantis shrimp.

Wikipedia photo by Shumpei Maruyama

BEAUTY - AND THE BEAST

There is a lot of beauty in the world which evolution can't explain. But there is ugliness, too, and this is a real problem for many people. Despite the strong evidence for the existence of a Creator, the presence of evil and suffering in nature makes many ask how such a Creator can be good. Charles Darwin was troubled about this. In 1860 he wrote to a friend, Asa Gray, confessing that he found it difficult to believe in a "beneficent and omnipotent God", because "there seems to me too much misery in the world." He found it easier to believe that cruel instincts had evolved. Lions are magnificent animals, but there is nothing beautiful about a lion killing and eating another animal. The human body is wonderfully designed, but there is nothing beautiful about cancer, or other diseases that can ravage our bodies.



So do we reject belief in a Creator altogether, or is God some kind of sadist? Actually there is a third option which makes sense of everything. At the beginning of the Bible we read that God created everything that exists, then "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good." (*Genesis 1: 31*). The Bible then goes on to explain why it is not "very good" now. The first humans rebelled against God, ruining the original harmony, and spoiling everything. The New Testament explains that the whole cosmos is "groaning" and waiting to be liberated from this decay. (*see Romans 8: 20-22*). It also explains that God sent Jesus Christ to begin building a new, restored creation through His death and resurrection. This new creation begins with people (who caused the trouble in the first place). "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation." (*2 Corinthians 5: 17*). Darwin rejected the Biblical view of creation and missed the wonder of a relationship with God. Don't make the same mistake!



Smile, please

What do you get when you cross an elephant with a kangaroo?
 Holes all over Australia.
 What do you get if you cross an elephant with a whale?
 A submarine with a built-in snorkel.

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The REAL SCIENCE paper!

ORIGINAL VIEW ORIGINAL

No. 60

INSIDE:

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- The beauty of birdsong
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BEAUTY REFUTES EVOLUTION!

There are many things in the world that can be described as beautiful, but why are they beautiful? Can evolution explain the origin and purpose of beauty? The theory says that every step in the process has to be of use to the organism. Things don't need to be beautiful to survive, so the fact that so many things are beautiful is strong evidence for design.

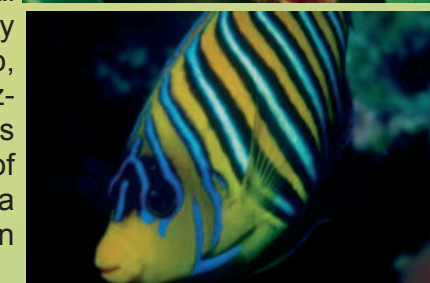


Wikipedia photo by Roderick Eime

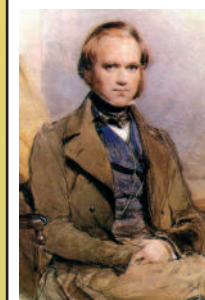
Birds of Paradise (left) have beautiful plumage. Did they need this to attract a mate? The most common birds in the world are house sparrows, rock pigeons and European starlings —



and they are all fairly plain. So the idea that beauty was essential for survival doesn't make sense. Many butterflies are beautiful, too, and many fish have dazzling and exotic colouring. Is beauty really an accident of nature — or the design of a Creator who took delight in His creations?



Darwin's beauty problem



Charles Darwin (left) recognised that beauty was a challenge to his theory. He wrote, "I willingly admit that a great number of male animals, as well as most gorgeous birds, some fishes, reptiles and mammals, and a host of magnificently coloured butterflies, have been rendered beautiful for beauty's sake." He believed that "sexual selection" was the answer —but is it? (see inside)

GEN & EV



Drawn by Michael Higgins

WHAT IS "ADDED BEAUTY"?

TAKE a look at the two arches on the right. The one at the top is simply functional; it does its job. The one in the lower picture, however, has been carved and decorated to make it look attractive. These carvings are not necessary for the arch to do its job. They were added by a designer who wanted to make it look nice. This is added beauty. The font in the headline above is another example. A plain font would have spelt the words just as well.

There are many examples of added beauty in the natural world. One example is the tail of a peacock (below left). Evolutionists claim that this is the result of *sexual selection*, and that the males with the most beautiful tails survived because peahens were more attracted to them.

However, if this is true, why is it that birds like crows (below), which are very plain, have survived just as well? In fact, there are more crows than peacocks in the world! The peacock's tail would actually be a hindrance, since it would make the bird stand out, and being so large, make it harder to escape from predators. Design expert Professor Stuart Burgess writes, "Since evolution requires every step change to have a selective advantage, it is very difficult for evolution to explain how the eye pattern could evolve."¹



Professor Burgess points out that the colour pattern is equal to 400 dots-per-inch — comparable to modern printing technology! Each feather has 100 barbs in the 'eye' region, with around 100,000 barbules in the pattern itself. Remarkably, as the tail feathers grow, the eye pattern remains perfect. The complex information to create and preserve the eye pattern in the tail is coded in the peacock's DNA. An added problem for evolution is to explain where this information came from. Mutations (genetic mistakes) don't add new information, and natural selection can only select what is already there.

In a letter to a friend, Charles Darwin admitted that the sight of a peacock's tail made him sick! We agree with Professor Burgess when he says that beauty is no accident, but that it reveals the wisdom of God.

1. *Hallmarks of Design*, Day One Publications, 2008, Chapter 5. Available from address on the back page.



The Beauty of Birdsong



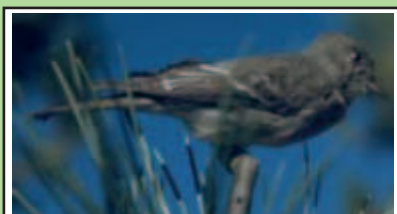
Have you ever listened to the "dawn chorus" when the singing of birds fills the air? And have you ever wondered why birds sing? Many of the plainer birds, such as blackbirds (left), have the most beautiful songs. It is mainly male birds that sing, and the main purpose is either to attract a mate or warn other birds not to invade their territory. But this doesn't explain why many birds sing so beautifully. Some birds get by very well with a simple "tweet" or a "honk", so why would others

evolve songs so elaborate that composers have actually written music based on them? Sometimes birds sing to each other, and even sing duets and quartets.

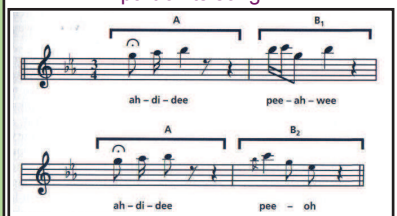
When you listen to a piece of music you know that it's not a collection of random notes, but was composed by an intelligent person. It contains melody, rhythm, variety and unity. Many birds' songs are just like that — for example the song of the wood pewee (right). Bird song is a form of added beauty — far beyond what natural selection would produce. There is no reason why a female bird would choose a mate which sang a beautiful song rather than random notes.

Although birds' songs are not mainly for our benefit, we can enjoy listening to them, and, as with any piece of music, realise they are the product of a composer with musical knowledge — in this case God!

(Based on "Added Beauty in Birdsong". *Hallmarks of Design*, by Professor Stuart Burgess, chapter 6.)



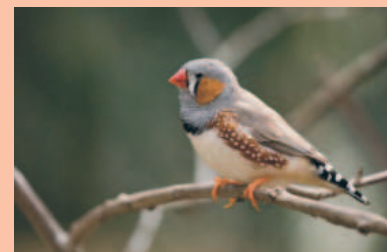
Above: a wood pewee, and (below) part of its song



From *Hallmarks of Design* by Professor Stuart Burgess, p.100

PROGRAMMED TO SING!

Birds usually learn to sing by listening to other birds, but that doesn't explain how bird song originated. Some scientists did an experiment with some zebra finches (below)¹



In this experiment, young birds were hatched and kept away from other birds for several generations. During this time they spontaneously developed the same songs as those of wild zebra finches — whom they had never heard sing! The scientists concluded that their culture was encoded in their DNA. In other words, they were "programmed" to sing, and programmes require a programmer!
 1. Reported in *Nature*, May 3rd 2009.

Photo: © Dreamstime

IN THE NEWS

Tale of the missing ~~link~~ ^{lemur}



In May 2009 the news media was buzzing with news of the discovery of an important "missing link" in the story of human evolution. The fossil (left), nick-named 'Ida', was of a female lemur, said to have characteristics which suggested it was "man's earliest ancestor." It was bought for \$750,000 by Norwegian scientist Dr Jorn Hurum who claimed it was "the first link to all humans." Its official name is *Darwinius masillae*, in honour of Charles Darwin. TV naturalist Sir David Attenborough confidently proclaimed "the missing link is no longer missing" and presented a special TV documentary about it. At the time, many evolutionists were very critical of the media hype. And creationist scientists insisted that it was just a fossil lemur.

Now, a group of American fossil experts have studied the fossil in detail, and concluded that Ida is not related to humans, or to apes and monkeys, it was simply a type of lemur (right), as creationists said all along.¹ Dr Hurum is sticking to his original opinion, and a furious row is brewing. No doubt, he wants to justify parting with \$750,000, and being proved wrong would leave him looking rather foolish.

To their credit, a number of newspapers have reported the latest news about Ida. This is by no means the first time that a much-hyped "missing link" claim have fallen flat. In fact, there is no convincing fossil evidence for human evolution. So it is important to treat all such claims with a healthy scepticism, especially since those making the claims are usually antagonistic to the view that humans were created in the image of God, and are separate from the animal creation.
 1. *Nature*, October 23rd. 2009.



www.darwinday.org.uk

www.crt.org.uk

HIDDEN BEAUTY

THERE are many beautiful things in the natural world, which can't be explained by evolution through natural selection. Most puzzling from an evolutionary point of view is hidden beauty.

Why are micro-organisms that live in water (left), and can't be seen without a microscope, so beautiful? They don't need to be in order to survive. Many of the sea creatures that inhabit coral reefs (below right) are amazingly beautiful, and divers are dazzled and awestruck by them. Why would they evolve such brilliant colours? Many sea shells (below left) have beautiful colours and intricate patterns. Why? They are not necessary for survival. It is much more logical to believe that they were designed by an intelligent Creator with an eye for beauty.

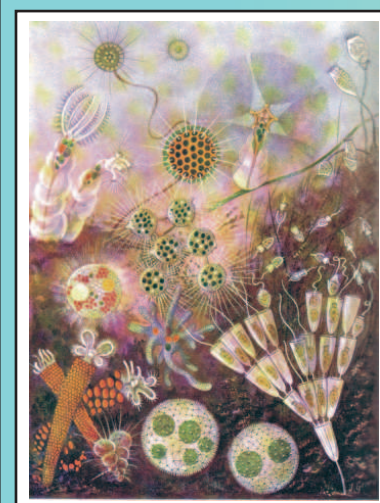


Photo: © Dreamstime

In his famous book *The Origin of Species* Charles Darwin wrote about the beauty of micro-organisms: "Few objects are more beautiful than the minute cases of the Diatomaceae; were these created that they might be examined and admired under the higher powers of the microscope?" We believe the answer is "Yes!"

