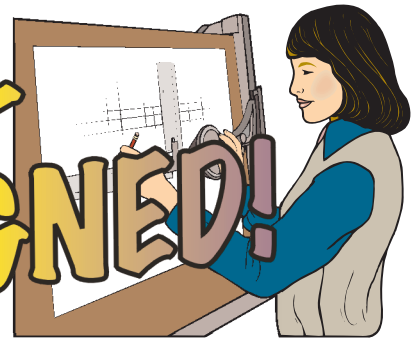


WELL DESIGNED!

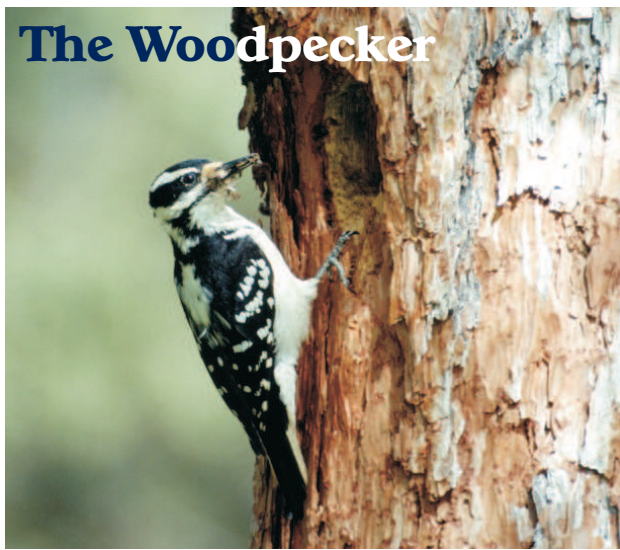


WOODPECKERS drill holes in trees to search for grubs. They do this by hammering at tree trunks with their sharp bills. They can do this for six hours at a time at a rate of 8–10 beats a second! They will even attack concrete. Why don't woodpeckers suffer serious brain damage from this constant hammering? People who operate pneumatic drills or jack-hammers need special protection and these machines are fitted with shock absorbers.



Woodpeckers have special shock absorbers, which are better than those designed by humans. Firstly, unlike most other birds, their brain is separated from their bill by a spongy tissue that absorbs the shock every time they hit a tree. Then, there are special muscles that pull their brain-case away from their bill at every strike. These

two special design features enable woodpeckers to continue head-banging without damaging their brain.



Woodpeckers also have other special design features, including two toes pointing backwards, and extra stiff tail feathers, which provide extra support when they are pecking at trees. They also have an extra long tongue that produces a sticky glue for catching insects from the holes they drill. This glue is dissolved when the tongue is drawn back into the mouth.

It's difficult to imagine an evolutionary origin for the woodpecker. Without that special protection for their brains before they ever started hammering at trees, woodpeckers would never have survived. It is much more reasonable to believe that these unique birds are the work of a wise Creator.

CHECK OUT THE FACTS

Evolutionists often use phrases like "probably", "might have", "imagine", "must have". Consider this quote from a pro-evolution website: "Paleontologists agree that the amphibians must have evolved from one of the 3 groups of lobe-finned fishes (lungfish, coelacanths, or extinct rhipidistians). However, there is disagreement on which group is the most likely ancestor." But if they can't agree which group is the ancestor why insist that amphibians "must have" evolved? Because they have already decided that evolution is a fact and have ruled out the possibility of creation. Truly open-minded researchers would examine the evidence before making up their minds.



Evolutionists say that amphibians "must have" evolved from fish.

Although we can't prove either evolution or creation, it is possible to see where the evidence is pointing, and then decide which explanation best fits the evidence.

We believe the evidence clearly points to creation, and that the Creator has revealed Himself to us in the Bible, and also in the life of Jesus Christ, who is "the image of the invisible God....For by him all things were created." (*The Bible, Colossians 1: 15–16*). Millions of people have discovered that God is real through faith in Jesus, and have found forgiveness and a new beginning because of His death and resurrection. How about you? **Check out the facts about Jesus at www.the-real-thing.org.uk**

1. <http://tidepool.st.usm.edu/>



Smile

What do you call a boomerang that doesn't work? A stick.

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? Frostbite.

Teacher: John, I hope I didn't see you looking at Dan's exam paper.

John: I hope you didn't either.

Original View is published three times a year by the Creation Resources Trust (Reg. Charity No. 1016666). Editing, design and layout by Geoff Chapman. Unless otherwise stated, articles are written by the editor. There is no subscription charge, but donations are invited. Contact CRT at P O Box 3237, YEOVIL, BA22 7WD. Phone/fax: 01935 850569. E-Mail: info@crt.org.uk. Other resources, e.g. literature, books, DVDs, videos, etc., also available by post or on-line at www.crt.org.uk. Scriptures taken from the HOLY BIBLE NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION © 1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society. Used by permission of Hodder & Stoughton. All rights reserved. Illustrations in this issue from Clipart.com, Masterclips & Planet-Medien-AG.

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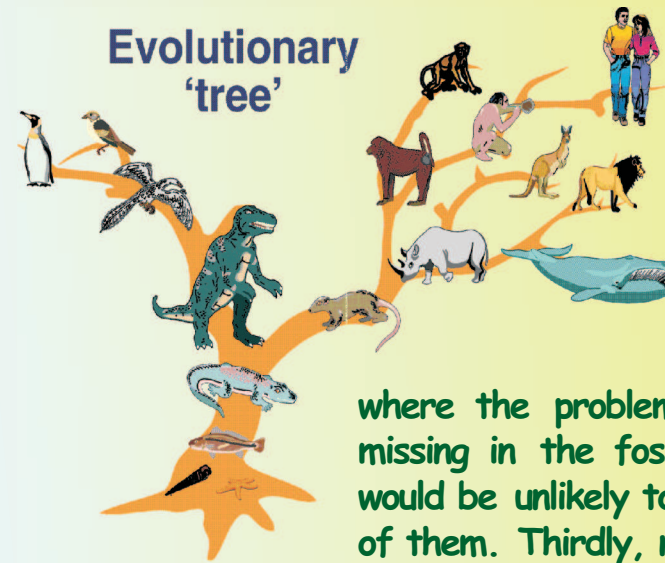
ORIGINAL VIEW

No. 47

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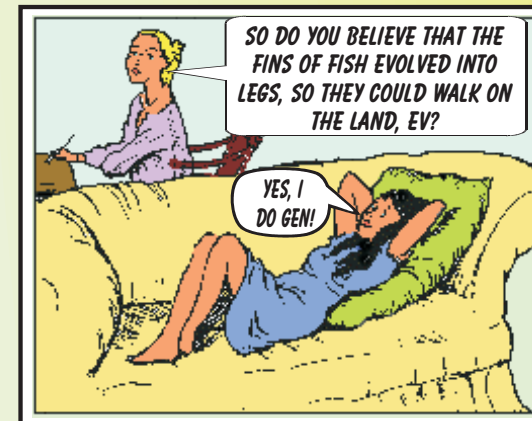
EVOLUTION'S FANTASY CREATURES

If evolution is true, they must have existed!



Evolutionists believe that life started out "simple", but over many millions of years things gradually changed from single-celled organisms, through invertebrates, fish, amphibians and reptiles, to birds, mammals, and human beings. The evolutionary "tree" on the left pictures this idea. If this really happened, there must have been lots of creatures that were in transition from one kind to another, and this is

where the problems begin for evolution. Firstly, these links are missing in the fossil record. Secondly, "half-and-half" creatures would be unlikely to survive, because natural selection would get rid of them. Thirdly, new genetic information would have been needed, and no-one has yet been able to explain how this could happen. So these "must-have-beens" are really "couldn't-have-beens".

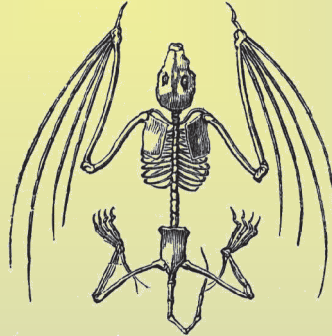


A "batty" idea

Bats are the only mammals which can fly. The evolution theory tells us that they evolved from some non-flying ancestor – something like a shrew. The oldest bat fossils are 100% bat, and fossils of partly-evolved bats have ever been found. So evolutionists have to imagine that, millions of years ago, shrew-like animals – designed to walk on the ground – slowly changed into bats. How or why this process could ever begin is a puzzle, but since they have no fossil evidence, evolutionists have to imagine that these "missing links" did exist. But this idea is no more than a fantasy, since all that we know about the process of natural selection tells us that a creature which could neither walk nor fly properly could never have survived. The evidence shows that bats have always been bats!



For a shrew-like animal (below) to evolve into a bat, it's finger bones would have to grow much, much longer to support the flaps of skin which would have had to develop at the same time. But what use would partially-evolved wings be? They would only be a nuisance!



Bat skeleton, showing long finger bones



A "proto-bat" would be unable to walk or fly properly, so it would never have survived.

NOT A BIT LIKE A WHALE!

Whales are mammals, and because evolutionists believe that mammals evolved from ancestors which lived in the sea, they have to believe that whales went *back* to the sea. Some evolutionists believe that the ancestor of whales was a wolf-like creature, while others believe it was something like a bear, or even a deer. No fossils have been found of any link between land animals and whales, although about 25 years ago some scientists claimed that a few fossil teeth and bits of a skull found in Pakistan belonged to a "walking whale". They named it *Pakicetus*, and pictures like the one at centre left, appeared in some science magazines.



Some years later, more complete fossils were found (bottom left), and scientists now know that *Pakicetus* was not a bit like a whale, but more like a wolf (bottom right). Those earlier drawings were a fantasy.



Really, it would be impossible for a land animal to gradually evolve into a whale, because so many changes would have had to happen at the same time. Whales have their nostrils on the top of their head. They have special underwater ears and eyes. Baby whales are born *tail first* to prevent them drowning, and when they drink their mother's milk, she actually *pumps* milk into their mouths to prevent them taking in sea-water. Any animal not fully adapted to life in the water would never have survived anyway; natural selection would have weeded it out.



Since scientists found more complete fossils of *Pakicetus* (left) they were able to draw an accurate picture (right).



Illustrations by Carl Buell, and taken from <http://www.neoucom.edu/Depts/Anat/Pakicetid.html>.

A CLOSER LOOK at Evolution Homology

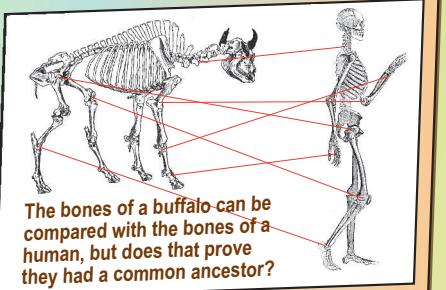
One of the popular "evidences" for evolution is *homology* (sometimes called *comparative anatomy*). It is claimed that the similarities between different creatures point to them having evolved from a common ancestor. Charles Darwin wrote, "What can be more curious than that the hand of a man formed for grasping, that of a mole for digging, the leg of a horse, the paddle of a porpoise, and the wing of a bat should all be constructed on the same pattern." (*Origin of Species*, 1859). It's true that the body plan of many vertebrate animals is similar, and that the same bones can be recognised in many different species, even though they may be used for a different purpose and vary greatly in size.

WHY NOT COMMON DESIGN?

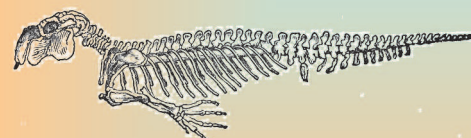
It is also true that these similarities could be explained by evolution from a common ancestor. But since the fossil evidence does not support the theory that one kind changed into another, surely it is logical to suggest that these similarities could also be evidence of common design? If an intelligent Creator set out to design creatures to live in various habitats, why would he not use the same basic design? That's exactly what human designers do. For example, most cars have four wheels, a battery, headlights, a steering wheel, etc., but they don't all come from the same factory. What's the point of designing something all over again, when an earlier design works well? So there is no reason why an intelligent Creator

would use a different body plan for all the different kinds of creatures which have to live in a similar environment.

Sticking to one basic plan demonstrates both wisdom and economy. There is another reason why similarity of structure is not evidence for evolution. Studies of the embryos of supposedly related animals have shown that so-called "homologous" structures actually grow from *different* parts of the embryo! So they can't be used as evidence that these animals evolved from a common ancestor. It looks as though common design by a wise Creator is the most logical way to interpret the evidence.



The bones of a buffalo can be compared with the bones of a human, but does that prove they had a common ancestor?



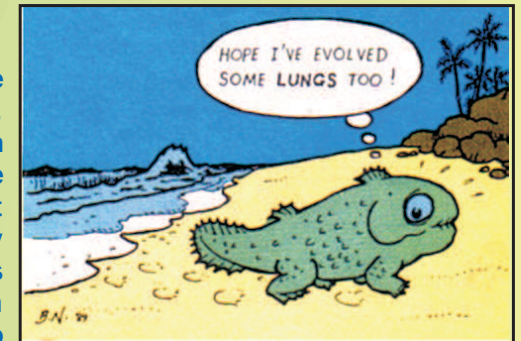
The skeleton of a dugong (sea cow) shows a similar structure to other vertebrates



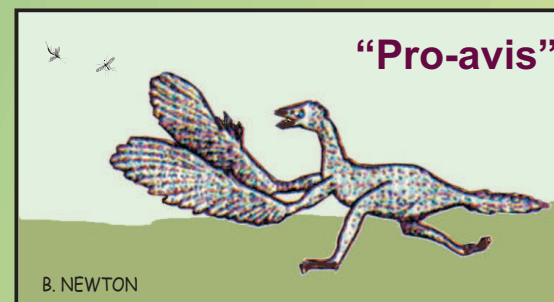
The fact that these cars have a similar design doesn't mean that the newest model evolved from the old one

Problems with fins and wings

There are a lot of problems with the theory that fish left the sea and became amphibians. One is the lack of transitional fossils (see *Original View No. 45*). Fish are designed to take oxygen from the water through gills, and a fish taken from the water will soon "drown". Also, fish have fins in which the bones are not joined to the skeleton, so can't bear any weight. Evolutionists believe that the fins of fish evolved into legs suitable for walking on land, even though they can't agree which fish were their ancestors. The fact is that all fish have fins and all amphibians have legs. The idea that, some time in the past, some fish began to haul themselves on to the land and became amphibians, belongs to the realm of fantasy.



The theory that reptiles such as dinosaurs evolved into birds also involves believing in fantasy creatures, such as "pro-avis" (meaning pre-bird) pictured left. Some evolutionists suggest that the scales of some reptiles began to fray and they tried using their front limbs as a kind of "butterfly net". Gradually, as they hopped along trying to catch insects, their frayed scales turned into feathers, and their front limbs evolved into wings, enabling them to take off. This idea is pure fantasy. To be of any use, an insect net needs to let air through, but the *opposite* is true for a wing. So if some reptiles did use their front limbs to catch insects – and there is no evidence they ever did – they could never have been able to use them to fly.



B. NEWTON

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