Many years ago, sailors sometimes reported seeing “mermaids” — half-fish, half-woman creatures. Of course, such creatures never really existed, but we now think that what some of these sailors saw were manatees. Manatees, which can grow to 4.5 metres (16 feet) long, are mammals which live in the sea. They are also known as ‘sea cows’, because they feed on plants which grow on the sea bed. Although they breathe air, they can hold their breath for 20 minutes when they dive. Unlike other mammals, manatees’ lungs are long, and stretch nearly the whole length of their bodies. Their ribs are specially shaped to make room for these long lungs, which help them to float in a horizontal position.

Evolutionists say that manatees are related to elephants, and that they had four-legged ancestors which lived on the land. But although fossils of manatees have been found in many parts of the world, there are none which show a link between them and land animals. Such half-and-half creatures are just as much a myth as mermaids!

Manatees are perfectly designed for their way of life. We believe God made them that way in the beginning when “He created every living thing that moves in the sea.” (Genesis 1:21).

Uncovering a manatee fossil in India. There is no evidence they evolved from land animals.
Famous scientists knew there was a Creator!

Expert on insects

French scientist Henri Fabre (right), who lived from 1823 to 1915, was a keen entomologist. Don’t worry — it simply means he studied insects! In fact, he wrote a set of ten books about insects and how they lived. The last book in the series was published when he was 84. Another of his many books was the 14-chapter Life of the Caterpillar. Fabre’s work is still greatly valued, and he is regarded as an expert in the study of insects. He received a number of special awards for his work.

Henri Fabre rejected the theory of evolution, and believed all things were created by God. He once said, “You could take my skin from me more easily than my faith in God.”

Scientist believed Bible was true

Swedish scientist Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778) believed that because God created the world, it was possible to understand God’s wisdom by studying His creation. Linnaeus (right) is famous for inventing the system we still use for arranging plants and animals in “families”. He believed that the original kinds of plants and animals had been created by God in the beginning, as the Bible tells us, and that there had only been changes within those “kinds”. The evidence from fossils and the living world shows that Linnaeus was right.

Linnaeus believed the original “kinds” were created by God as the Bible says.

Nature Notes by the Editor

Have you ever discovered a bird’s nest, with a clutch of eggs in it? If you do, please don’t touch the eggs, or interfere with the nest in any way. The mother bird might forsake the nest and the eggs would never hatch. You should never take eggs from a nest, because that would mean there would be less baby birds, and the species might not survive. Stealing eggs can also land you in real trouble, because most birds are now protected by the law.

Have you ever wondered why birds build nests, and how they know what to do? How do they know that eggs are important for the survival of their species, and that they need to be protected? If birds had to “evolve” nest-building, what would have happened to their eggs before they got it right? Birds don’t learn how to build nests — they do it by instinct, so it must be part of a “programme” that God built into them.

Most baby birds depend on their parents to feed them when they first hatch, like the robin on the right, but how do the parents know this? They couldn’t have gradually found this out, or their species would have died out! The Bible says, “God also made every bird that flies. And each bird produced more of its own kind.” (Genesis 1:21). And right at the beginning God made them with the ability to build their nests, and to look after their eggs and young.

—Geoff Chapman

Puzzle Corner

Unjumble the words below using the clues given. (The answers are all in this paper).

1. LEPEKS. Astronomer who believed he was “thinking God’s thoughts after Him”.
2. RUNASU. Planet discovered by William Herschel.
3. STENIC. Henri Fabre studied these.
4. GRUSONE. Joseph Lister was one.
5. ADRAYFA. He invented electric motors.
6. RESSLITIE. Joseph Lister said doctors should do this to their instruments.
7. STENGAM. Michael Faraday experimented with these.
8. WETNON. He has been called “our most famous scientist.”

ANSWERS ON NEXT PAGE