

# Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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## AOI: Helping students, families, and churches survive and thrive

By Dave & Mary Jo Nutting

In just a few weeks students will be reporting to schools and institutions of “higher learning.” Those following AOI have likely heard us say that a high percentage of youth from even solid churches are being blown out of the water by the pervasive teaching (implied or stated) that Evolution is science – Creation is just a religious myth. In other cases, their faith is being openly attacked by atheistic proselytizers who feel it is their duty to “liberate” their pupils from “outdated religious” ideas learned from church or home. Students are also being told that archaeology has proven the Bible wrong, or that there is no evidence that Jesus ever existed.

Many Christian students cave in to these false arguments and Godless philosophies. One reason is that they simply don’t have answers. Another is that most students want to “fit in” and not look stupid in front of their peers and who seem so smart with all their impressive degrees. Because of this, they end up hiding their faith, or worse yet, rejecting it completely.

So what’s the answer? While

there are no “pat answers,” there are some things that can help nudge students in the right direction. First and foremost, is a strong, personal relationship with the Lord. That is a personal commitment, that can’t be forced or faked. However, it can be modeled and encouraged by parents, teachers, pastors, and mentors who have a positive caring relationship with young people. Second, is for committed, Christian adults to step up to the plate and become positive role models for those in their circle of influence.


Next, students of all ages need answers and encouragement to ask questions and seek truth, in every area of life. They need to understand the nature of science – what it can do and what it can’t. They need to learn

to distinguish between fact and assumption; between data and interpretation. They need solid, sound, straightforward information demonstrating how the Bible

has stood the test of time, and facts showing why they can believe it.

In addition, they need support and encouragement in their faith from people “back home” who really

care about them as individuals – not in a “preachy” way, but in ways that demonstrate real love and commitment. (Of course, this needs to start long before they hit the campus!) Truly caring relationships are crucial at every age. We are called to demonstrate our love for God by loving others – not only our own families, but others that God brings into our lives. They also need to know they shouldn’t try to “go it alone” at the university, but to seek out Christians who can help them. If at all possible, students should become involved in a solid Christian club or outreach on campus that can provide vital fellowship, support, and growth. In addition, regular participation in a good, Bible-believing, evangelistic church where they can worship, grow, and serve with others is vital in providing a broader perspective of life than just the university scene. (After all, there is life after the university!)

AOI is committed to helping students, families, and churches with sound, scientific and Biblical teaching on creation and apologetics. We can be a resource for truthful information that can help fortify and equip you and your students. It is our mission to help you not only survive, but to actually thrive in an often hostile educational setting. Through our seminars, camps, tours, website, blogs, social media posts, training programs, and personal mentoring, we want to help you stand firm and make a difference – for the glory of God and the good of His people everywhere. Call us for help. 





**S**ummer is a great opportunity for focused ministry to youth. It can be a time for deepening their walk with Christ and training them to defend their faith against ungodly ideas and destructive worldviews. Several students, led by myself and assisted by Brian Mariani, traveled to California where we studied the evidence for Christianity and practiced effectively defending our faith.

We hope the quotes from the following students will encourage you as you see their interest and what an impact sound teaching and practical experience can make.

• “By actively engaging in a civil conversation, armed with only a few questions, we were able to make a small crack in others’ worldview armor and hopefully provide enough space for God to begin to work.” – Eric

• “I am extremely grateful to have been a part of this trip. Through it my faith grew and I became more assured in it... since I have a greater understanding of some of those different worldviews, I can now learn how to defend the faith better and hopefully bring others to Christ in the process.” – Jessie

• “I was extremely impacted by the complete lostness of the young people we encountered. Not only did they not believe in Jesus, they didn’t believe much of anything. They really are just living day-to-day and hoping something will work out for them...somewhere... someday.” – Layla

• “The trip meant a lot to me because it showed that our faith can stand up to any opposing worldview... I believe that we should be sharing the truth with others around us and sometimes that comes in the form of ‘putting a rock in someone’s shoe’ and making them think about what

their worldview cannot account for. If we truly love and care for the world around us, there is no reason why we should withhold the truth from anyone... especially since it has eternal consequences.” – Nathan

• “The cool thing about it all was that I was able to better understand my own faith just by learning about other religions and worldviews. Doing the surveys and interacting with people made me more comfortable to talk about my religion, and I learned to do so in an effective and educated way.” –Victoria

**[Editor’s Note:** AOI’s on-going desire is to mentor, train, and equip more young people and adults with, not only knowledge so that they are not shaken, but that they can share it with those who oppose them in a gentle, yet persuasive way.] **AOI**

## Great Opportunity! – AOI Discover Creation DVD Sale!

**W**e are overstocked and you can help by giving AOI’s DVD set to friends and family – believers or nonbelievers.

This DVD set is based on years of experience teaching audiences of all ages. AOI speakers show why evolution doesn’t work – biblically or scientifically. Exciting, informative, and entertaining, these colorfully illustrated, user-friendly DVDs show that you can trust the whole Bible!

The complete series contains twelve 30-minute presentations in a nicely boxed set. The 78-page Study Guide (full-color, 8.5 x 11) makes a valuable reference providing a helpful introduction to each topic. It also contains detailed outlines, memory-jogging images,



and review sections that include main points, content/ discussion questions, and ideas for application. The combination is great for home or group study – ages middle school through Adult. There’s even a free downloadable Teacher’s Supplement on our website.

The Study Guide alone is worth much more than the already low price of **\$5.00**. However, you’ll receive one **FREE** with each DVD set you order. This means you get the entire boxed DVD Series and Study

Guide for just **\$30.00!** (+ \$5.00 S/H) Order several sets today and reach out to others with a gift that just might change their lives! **AOI**

**(Note:** The Kid’s Discover Creation DVD Set was advertised in our last issue of T&B. We will extend that special pricing if you include it in this order.)

Topics include:

- 1. Creation or Evolution?**  
– A Battle of Beliefs!
- 2. Fossils and Cavemen**  
– Great Artwork: What’s the Evidence?
- 3. So-Called Proofs of Evolution**  
– Can you trust the textbooks?
- 4. Grand Design or Blind Chance?**  
– Amazing Evidence from Nature
- 5. A Flood of Evidence**  
– Lots of Water or Lots of Time?
- 6. It’s About Time!**  
– Dating Methods and the Age of the Earth
- 7. Evolution and John 3:16**  
– How Darwinism Affects the Gospel of Christ
- 8. The Amazing Human Body**  
– Astounding Evidence for a Loving Creator
- 9. Dinosaurs, Dragons, and Man**  
– Solving the Great Dinosaur Mystery
- 10. Archaeology, Science & Scripture**  
– Affirming the Reliability of the Word of God
- 11. The Bible, Science, and Earth History**  
– God’s Word and God’s World Agree!
- 12. Stand Firm!**  
– No Need to Compromise!



# Amazing Hummingbirds!

by Dave Nutting

Imagine having 100's of hummingbirds of various varieties flying all around you. Such beauty! Such amazing acrobatics! Darting back and forth, dive bombing, hovering in mid-air! That is what it was like at one of the stops on AOI's recent Costa Rica tour. I could not help giving praise to our Creator-God for this part of His remarkable creation!

In some of my seminars, I show a slide of an airplane, a dragonfly, and a hummingbird. I then ask the audience to, "Choose which one was **not** designed." the hummingbird and dragonfly certainly can out-manuever the airplane.

As far as lift, the dragonfly can lift 15-25 times its body weight! Obviously, all three show evidence of design.

However, it is the items that supposedly evolved by chance and accident that make man's proud achievement seem rudimentary at best.

While watching the effortless flight of the hummingbirds, I mused over the current theory of bird evolution which claims that birds evolved from dinosaurs! Of course, my overactive brain kicks in concocting images of half-hummingbird/half-dinosaur transitions! Sorry, it just doesn't fly! Nor does it compute in my brain how the amazing design of

a hummingbird could possibly have evolved! By the way, there is **no** fossil evidence for hummingbird evolution. Whenever we find a hummingbird in the fossil record, it is 100% a hummingbird!

In fact, when relating the news of a recently-discovered fossil hummingbird (found in Germany from rocks

supposedly 30-50 million years old), Erik Stokstad, quotes ornithologist Margaret Rubega (University of Connecticut) saying: "The amazing thing about this fossil is that it's essentially a modern hummingbird."

Because the largest proliferation of hummingbirds is in the "New World" – the Americas – scientists have assumed they originated there. To find a modern representative in the "Old World" turns their theory upside down and strains the time frame in which this supposed evolution could have taken place.

Besides the lack of evidence for hummingbird evolution, evolutionists also need to explain some amazing design features. Consider the following:

Hummingbirds normally flaps their wings between 50-80 flaps per second but can increase that to nearly 200 flaps per second during sudden bursts of speed and in courtship maneuvers.

Unlike other birds with an up-and-down wing motion, this bird employs a figure-8 pattern which

allows it to perform its remarkable acrobatics including hovering in mid-air.

This can pose a huge problem for evolutionists. All of that motion generates frictional heat which, coupled with metabolic heat, would cause a hummingbird to burst into flames – except for its marvelously-designed cooling systems. While airflow from the flapping wings helps cool the outside of its body a heart rate of 500-1200 beats per minute and respiration of 250 breaths per minute, help cool the inside.

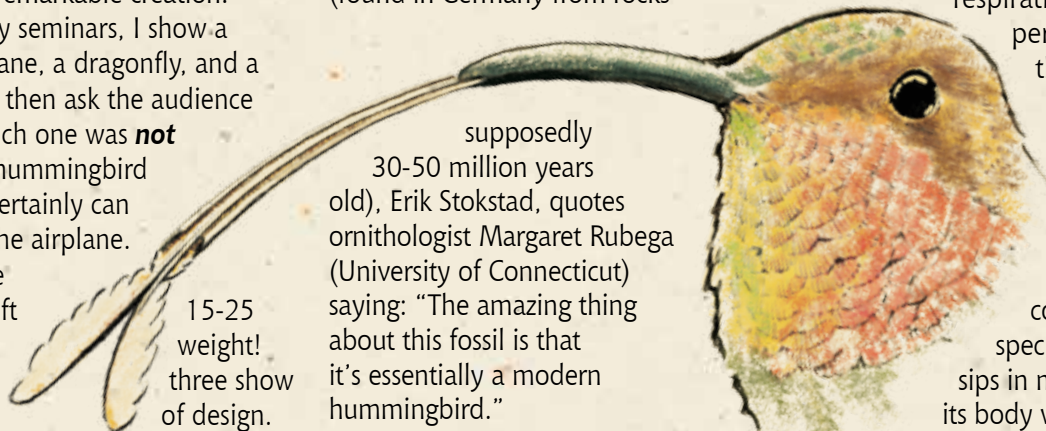
If you ever hear someone say they eat like a bird, ask if they mean a hummingbird. Though minuscule compared to other species, a hummingbird sips in more nectar than its body weight each day!

This is made possible by its well-designed nectar-retrieval system. Scott Gillis, writing in **Creation** 39(1)2017, says, "Until 2010, most biologists believed the hummingbird tongue operated by simple capillary action, like 'wicking.' However, biologist from the University of Connecticut discovered that the tongue works more like a micropump...It is composed of two long narrow tubes that 'unzip' in

segmented flaps when in contact with nectar. Then the flaps retract to 'pump' the nectar in less than 1/20th of a second, in rapid succession, thousands of times each day."

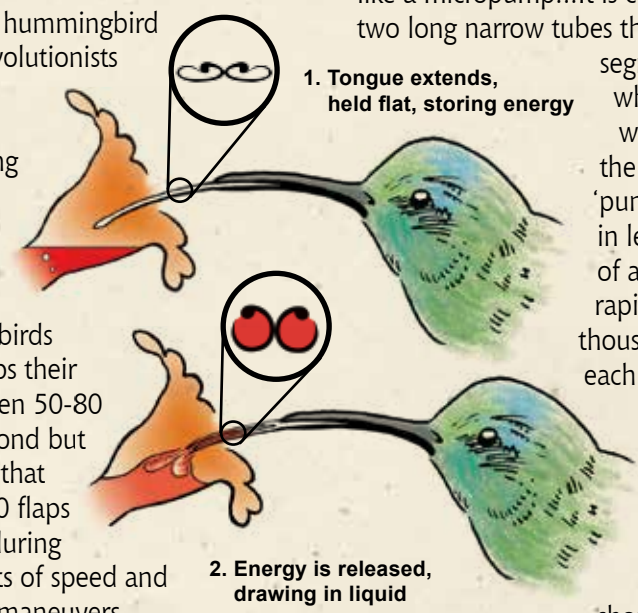
Besides all the superb design features, the sheer beauty of these marvelous birds should shout to

everyone, "Hummingbirds are created by an amazing engineer who is also an amazing artist!" **AOI**



**Hummingbird Facts:**

- For their size, hummingbirds have the largest heart and brain of all animals.
- They are the smallest birds in the world.
- They are only found in the Western Hemisphere.
- Hummingbirds have no sense of smell.
- They visit 2,000 to 5,000 flowers a day.
- Hummingbirds fly only 20% of the time.
- They can consume twice their weight daily.
- Their color is produced by refraction of light, not by pigment.
- Their average speed is 45 miles per hour.
- Hummingbirds cannot walk – only perch.
- Their tongues are twice the length of their bills.
- Besides nectar, they eat insects for protein.





## Director's Column by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting




**A**s we write, AOI speaking teams are all “on the road” or gearing up for upcoming camps, tours, VBS’s, homeschool conferences, and other

summer events. We always pray that many lives will be touched and will result in lasting fruit for eternity!

This fall, when schools are back in session, we transition back into more church seminars, school programs, university presentations, in-depth classes and video development. We are also gearing up for more intentional outreach to university students right here in Grand Junction. (Stay tuned for more on that!) Of course, all of this takes the focused prayers and support of our dedicated ministry partners, here in western Colorado, across the States, and even around the world.

As ministry partners, you are an integral part of the ministry of AOI. You share a heart commitment to get the Truth of Creation, God’s Word, and the Gospel to as many children, youth, and adults as possible. You understand the importance of Creation as the foundation for all the rest of Scripture and for the Gospel. You

know that God has a plan and a purpose for His Creation and for human beings who were “made in His image.” He desires to walk with us and dwell among us. He wants to share our lives – to be our loving Father, Friend, and Helper. Even though, Adam and Eve chose to disobey God resulting in the entrance of sin and death into this world, God has instituted a wonderful plan of redemption, restoration, and reconciliation. In the present age, we suffer trials and tribulations – the lasting consequences of the Fall. The good news however, is that Jesus has overcome the world. We have His Spirit as a “deposit” on the full presence of His coming Kingdom and that He will be with us to the end of the age.

What wonderful and precious promises! What hope, meaning, and purpose this knowledge gives! Remember, the foundation of this truth is found in Genesis and the outworking of it throughout the Bible – the very book that comes under such vicious and persistent attack. AOI exists to share and defend the truth of Genesis with people of all ages – here and to the “ends of the earth.” We are so glad you, our prayer and support partners, are with us on this journey. If you’re not yet a part of our team, please join us today! 

## We're looking for Interns!



We are looking for a select group of individuals who wish to join us on a **creation ministry outreach** that will have a **major impact**. Do you have 2, 3, 6 months or longer to be part of something that is truly significant? If so, email Dave ASAP at [AOI@DiscoverCreation.org](mailto:AOI@DiscoverCreation.org).

## Would you like a seminar in your area?

Call now! Speakers still have some openings for Summer, Fall, and Winter.

Connect with AOI! Follow us, like us, etc.



## Creation Tour of Costa Rica March, 2018

There's still Room. Call Now!



Let us know **ASAP** if you wish to be considered for this amazing creation tour and/or ministry outreach to the University of Costa Rica and area churches.



## Yellowstone

Creation Tour • Sept. 1 – 5

- Geysers, hot pools, geology, waterfalls, and wildlife!
- Dynamic Creation Teaching!
- Affordable family tour with experienced creation guides
- Lodging at Old Faithful Christian Ranch



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