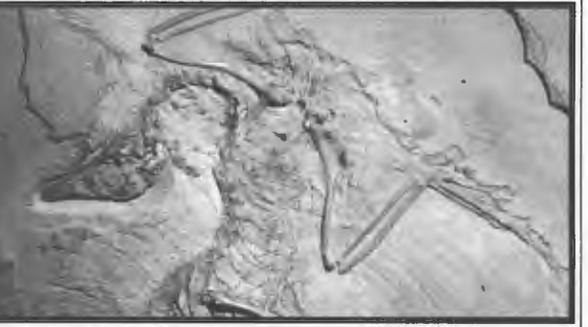


# Think & Believe



A Publication of *Alpha Omega Institute*

March/April, 2000; Vol. 17 No.2

## The Archaeoraptor Hoax

by *Dave Nutting*

**N**ational Geographic went out on the limb (and fell off) by publishing articles in their November, 1999 issue stating they found the long-sought-after-missing link between dinosaurs and birds. Their great artwork, of feathered dinosaurs, including *Archaeoraptor*, looked extremely believable.

Newspapers across the country carried the story. Suddenly the feathered dinosaurs, were the **in thing**. They would soon replace the familiar reptilian dinosaur look. Within days, kids began learning of the new discovery. Even *Tyrannosaurus-Rex* began to sprout feathers.

Everything was fine until National Geographic received an email written in December. The news reports broke in January: **Archaeoraptor has now crashed on the runway!** It was a **big hoax** that left **National Geographic** staff "tarred and feathered."

Evidently some faker from China, pinned a reptile's tail onto a fossil bird and **National Geographic**

didn't look closely enough at it. They will be publishing a retraction soon. (We hope.) Although *Archaeoraptor* was only one of several "links" embellished with great artwork in their article, it really makes you wonder about the rest of them.

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**"When they put that feathered dinosaur on the cover last year, I threw 30 years' worth of magazines out of my house. National Geographic's journalism is a joke."**

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*-Alan Feduccia, expert on bird evolution, [The Report Newsmagazine 12/6/99]*

**National Geographic** was just too eager to promote the new find since it has been pushing the dinosaur to bird evolution for a long time. Chinese forgers were also quite happy to help them out. They really should have listened to experts who were adamant against the concept. There are just too many problems with the theory (see the other articles in this issue).

**National Geographic** isn't the only one to get burned with a fake. *USA Today* reports that another fossil "link"

found in the same area as *Archaeoraptor* was reported in *Nature's* April, 1999 edition. **It, too, had a reptile tail pinned to the body of another creature--in this case a pterosaur.** It has fooled scientists and publishers alike.

Yes, there have been hoaxes. Anyone can make a mistake. Unfortunately, the damage will live on. Most of the adults and children who saw the original articles, as well as the 110,000 that viewed the displays at the National Geographic Explorer's Hall, will still believe that dinosaurs had feathers because they saw the great artwork. This makes our job of de-evolutionizing the country even harder. **T&B**



**Paleontologist Birthday Party**

# Other Scientists React

by Dave Nutting

Many scientists were absolutely dismayed over **National Geographic's** promotion of feathered dinosaurs well before the unveiling of the Archaeoraptor hoax. Their expressed concerns were ignored.

Alan Feduccia, bird evolution specialist, was quoted as saying, "When they put that feathered dinosaur on the cover last year, I threw 30 years' worth of magazines out of my house. **National Geographic's** journalism is a joke." [The Report Newsmagazine 12/6/1999] He went on to say, "...the hairlike filaments that accompany some

fossils come from beneath the skin. I can duplicate the effect by skinning the tail of a modern lizard."

In the same publication, Storrs Olson, fossil bird expert from the Smithsonian Institute (also an evolutionist), was reported to have written an open letter to **National Geographic** where he lambasted them for engaging in "sensationalistic,

unsubstantiated, tabloid' journalism. 'Clearly,' he wrote, '[the magazine] is not receiving competent consultation in certain scientific matters.' He is especially 'galled' by the societies assertions that a wide variety of

dinosaurs definitely wore feathers. 'This is just a \_\_\_ lie,' he says. 'There is not one undisputed example of a dinosaur with feathers. None. The public deserves to know this.' "

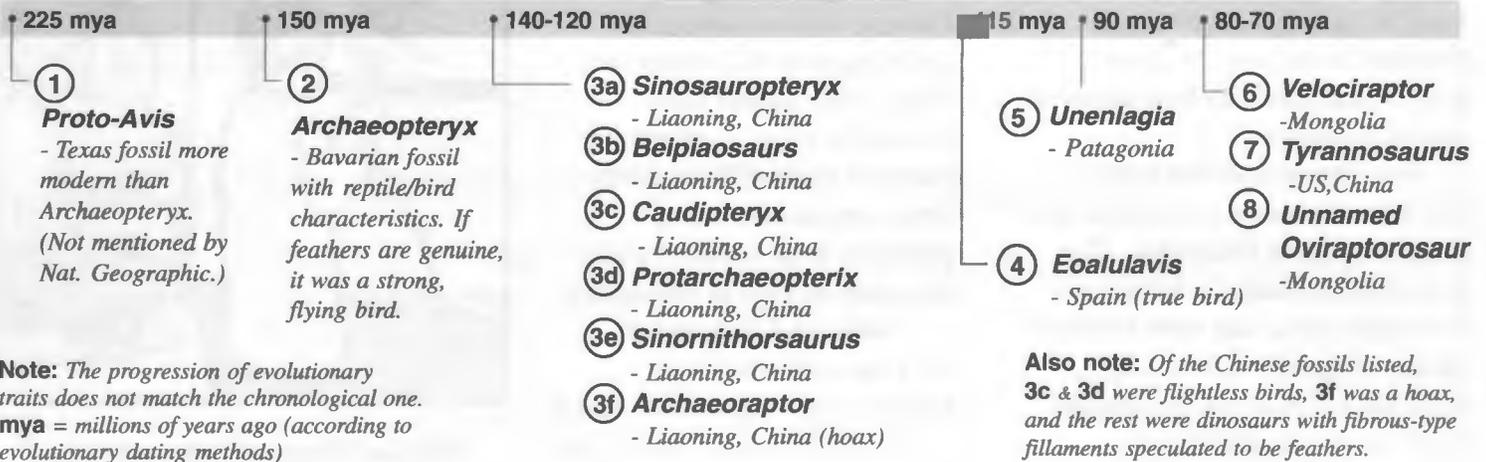
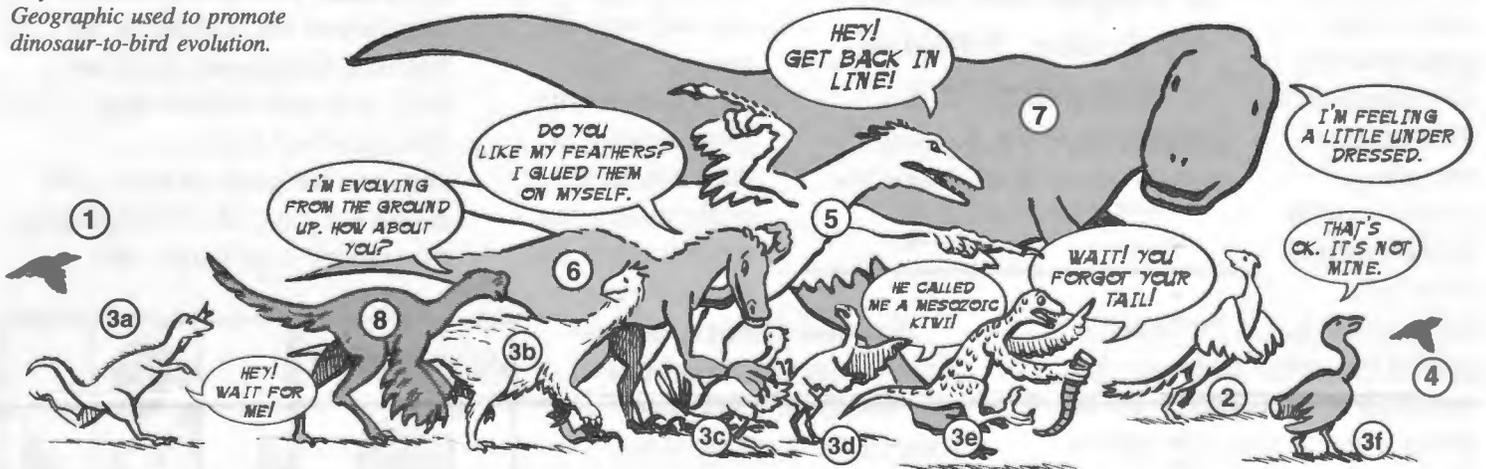
Yes, we do. Otherwise children for more generations to come will grow up believing that evolution has "proven" its case. It hasn't. **T&E**

**"...A wide variety of dinosaurs wore feathers."** -Nat. Geographic

**"just a ... lie. There is not one undisputed example of a dinosaur with feathers. None."** -Storrs Olson, Smithsonian Institute

## Along the "Path" to Birds

Fossil creatures compiled from charts in July 1998 and November 1999 **National Geographic** used to promote dinosaur-to-bird evolution.



**Note:** The progression of evolutionary traits does not match the chronological one. **mya** = millions of years ago (according to evolutionary dating methods)

**Also note:** Of the Chinese fossils listed, 3c & 3d were flightless birds, 3f was a hoax, and the rest were dinosaurs with fibrous-type fillaments speculated to be feathers.

## The Path to Birds?

by Mark Sonmor

One of the benefits of being the Graphic Artist at AOI is learning the truths of Creation as I work to visually communicate them. Last year, I ran across the July 1998 and November 1999 issues of **National Geographic** which promoted feathered dinosaurs. They showed several fossils and accompanying artwork that, to a layperson like me, indicated transitional forms between dinosaurs and birds.

After *Archaeoraptor* was exposed to be a fraud, I decided to study further to reconcile the other claims. As a result, I found revealing information that I had overlooked.

For example, next to the chart showing the evolution from dinosaur to birds, the text acknowledged this was “not a chronological progression” but rather an illustration of how the traits of the modern wing evolved in different creatures at different times. With this in mind, I decided to arrange the fossils according to the evolutionary dates assigned to them. I found major problems as illustrated at the far left.

This arrangement shows that the fossils from China were found in

rocks older than the dinosaurs they supposedly evolved from and newer than *Archaeopteryx* the bird that they were supposed to evolve to. Although this doesn't automatically falsify the dinosaur-to-bird scenario, it does reveal what **National Geographic** failed to illustrate: The fossils don't appear in the right order!

To complicate matters, a fossilized bird with very modern characteristics, named *Proto-avis*, was discovered in rocks “dated” at 225

million years old. If these findings hold true, it may force evolutionists to leave dinosaurs outside the lineage of birds altogether. However, this places a possible, but unknown ancestor even lower in the fossil record. The problem is summed up by Alan Feduccia, who says, “... you can't be your own grandmother... To sustain their theory, theropod [to bird] supporters have to throw out the geologic record.” **T&B**

## Similarities Do Not Equal Evolution

by Mark Sonmor

In 1964, a small, leaping predator was uncovered named *Deinonychus*. After studying its anatomy, John Ostrom (Yale) concluded that it resembled a bird. However, like all meat-eating dinosaurs, *Deinonychus* had lizard-type (sauriscian) hips - exactly the opposite of what would be expected. The dinosaurs that did have bird hips (ornithiscian) are not seen as adequate evolutionary ancestors for birds.

Furthermore, dinosaur “hand” bones and “corresponding” bird bones do not match. They

are “derived” from different digits.

Also, similarities don't necessarily equal an evolutionary relationship. Even Time magazine (July 6, 1998 pp.82-83) concedes that, “Sharks and dolphins...have comparable body shapes, though one is a fish and the other a mammal. Such disparate creations as bats, birds and butterflies all have wings in common.” However, it goes on to say that finding a dinosaur with feathers would seem to indicate an evolutionary relationship. After all, “They *had* [emphasis added] to evolve from somewhere.” Only faith in evolution would require this kind of reasoning. **T&B**



## Problems with Reptile-to-Bird Evolution

Most evolutionists believe reptiles developed wings by either climbing trees and gliding after prey, or flapping forearms trying to catch insects on the ground. This ignores the insurmountable gap of genetic information required for reptiles to become birds. Their differences pose many transitional problems.

- Birds have bodies balanced for flight. Reptiles have short forelimbs and heavy tails.
- Birds have light, hollow bones which are also part of the lung system. Reptiles don't.
- Birds have powerful flight muscles. Reptiles don't.
- Birds have tendons that run over pulley-like openings in their shoulders. Reptiles don't.
- Feathers originate from follicles inside the skin while scales are merely folds of skin.
- $\alpha$ -keratins make up feather proteins while  $\phi$ -keratins make up scales.
- Birds have a continuous flowing lung system while reptiles have an “in/out” lung system.

For details regarding the above problems, see Dr. Jonathan Sarfati's book: *Refuting Evolution* (available from AOI for \$9.95+ \$3 S/H).



## Elk Creek Training Center Update

by Dave Harper

Jesus sent seventy disciples out "...before his face into every city and place, wither he himself would come." Have you ever considered that where you go and speak of Christ's salvation you are before Christ's face? What will Christ find someday when he comes after each of us? Will he find we spoke truth in his name? Our goal is to train disciples that will go before Christ bringing his truth to people held in captivity or led astray by evolution. Please pray that we will meet this need.

We are pressing toward accomplishing vital engineering projects. Pray that God will open windows of time for our volunteer engineers to accomplish this work before summer. They have a special challenge balancing the Elk Creek project with their jobs and families.

We are eager to share about the work God is doing. Please call us to visit your church. Pray for our safety as we travel and work this spring.

## Vacation of a Life-Time!

Join us for our Creation Mountain Adventures in the beautiful, mountains of Colorado. Exciting, family "Vacations with a Purpose" will be offered for three separate weeks: Twin Peaks (July 2-7), and Redcloud 1&2 (Aug 13-18 & 20-25).

All vacations include slide illustrated creation sessions and children's programs, plus exciting recreational activities. Lodging and great food at a very reasonable price.

*"The kids loved everything in the children's program. We had a wonderful week!" -Diane*

*"My boys and I enjoyed all aspects of the camp. Andrew and Jeffrey want to do it again next year." -Juanita*

*"Teaching was great. Covered some very pertinent information. We really enjoyed the beauty of the camp as*

*well as all the activities. The camp staff was wonderful. The meals were delicious." -Daniel*

*"The program presented was very well done by excellent instructors. Needless to say, the scenery was world class." - Preston*

We hope to see you at camp!!!! See the enclosed brochure, or contact us today.

Ph: (970)-523-9943  
discovercreation@juno.com

[www.DiscoverCreation.org](http://www.DiscoverCreation.org)



## Schedule of Events

- Feb 21-Mar 13 Mexico City Seminars
- Mar 5,12,19,26 Grand Jct CO: Calvary Bible  
Contact: 970-242-9121
- Mar 28-April 9 Russia: Seminars/Training  
Contact Marilyn: 970-523-9943
- April 9-11 Rolla MO: Church/Campus Min.  
Contact Dave Egley at: djegley@umr.edu
- April 28,29 Grand Junction, CO: West CO  
1st Annual Home Ed Conf  
Contact CHEC-West, 970-241-5241
- May 5-6 Rawlins, WY: Wyoming  
Homeschoolers State Convention  
Contact Michelle Aldrich 307-324-5553
- May 7-9 Dubois WY: Wilderness Baptist  
Contact Chris Stoker 307-455-2050
- May 21, 22 W. Chicago, IL: W. Chicago Bible  
Contact: 630-231-1210
- May 25-May 31 Manitou Springs, CO:  
Summit Ministries Youth Leadership  
Contact: 719-685-9103
- May 24-26 or 28-29 Wasilla AK:  
Mid Valley Christian Center (Tentative)  
Contact Bob: 907-373-6445 or 373-6080
- May 30, 31 & June 1 Fairbanks AK:  
Totem Park Nazarene Church  
Contact: 907-479-6734 or 474-0592
- June 4-8 Juneau, AK: Church of God VBS  
Contact 907-789-9314 or 907-789-6384
- June 9-10 Spearfish, SD:  
SD Homeschool Convention  
Contact Vicki Stratton 605-787-6065
- June 11-15 Hoonah AK: Hoonah Assembly  
VBS, Contact: 907-945-3271
- June 19-23 Ketchikan AK: Ketchikan Assembly  
VBS, Contact: 907-225-6194
- June 20-21 Manitou Springs, CO:  
Summit Ministries Youth Leadership  
Contact Summit 719-685-9103
- June 22-24 Aurora, CO: CHEC Homeschool  
Conference, Contact: 303-393-6587
- June 26-30 Yampa CO: Mt. Elim Bible Camp  
Contact Pastor Rod Krey 970-638-4411
- July 2-7 Colbran CO: Twin Peaks Camp  
Creation Mountain Adventure  
Contact: 970-487-3891
- July 9-11 Somerset, CO: Camp Id Ra Ha Je  
Contact: 970-929-5221
- July 17-22 Crofton, NE: Glad Tidings Camp  
Contact: 402-373-4433
- July 31 -Aug 4 Flagler, CO: Sunnydale E.  
Free VBS, Contact: 970-383-2314
- July 31- Aug 18 Pillager, MN: Camp Jim  
Contact Russ Davidson 218-829-6767
- Aug 13-18, 20-25, Lake City, CO: Redcloud  
Creation Mountain Adventures I & II  
Contact: 970-523-9943

**Needs: Please pray, give, and volunteer. We need you!** Also, we can use motor homes/travel trailers at our training center and for speaking trips.



ALPHA OMEGA INSTITUTE

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