

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator



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What About Dinosaurs? – Revisited

by Dave Nutting

Have you noticed more dinosaurs running around immediately after Christmas? Many kids get dino pajamas as presents, along with tee-shirts and dinosaur books. You may see boys roaring at everything including their sisters. Sounds cute doesn't it? Well, at least until the dino kiddo takes a big bite on your leg!

Forty years ago, I wrote an article for the Jan/Feb 1986 **Think & Believe** titled "What about Dinosaurs?" This question was, and still is, the most frequently asked question at our presentations. Why is this question so prevalent and sometimes asked as a challenge?

Obviously, because many dinosaurs were very large and had big, sharp teeth, they capture a lot of interest. Most children begin reading books on dinosaurs in prekindergarten or in early elementary school.

As you limp around from the "dino bite," take a good look at those books you just bought your dinosaur-loving kids for Christmas. What messages are they getting from them? You'll likely find great artwork depicting how dinosaurs evolved from more "primitive" ancestors. Movies, TV programs, and internet sites also proclaim that the dinosaurs evolved and roamed

upon this planet sixty-five to 245 million years ago – long before man had "evolved." With this constant barrage, it is no wonder why the question about dinosaurs arises and why the viewpoint of creation is so alien to what most children have been programmed to believe. Unfortunately, this is also true for a majority of "church kids." Secular training (even prior to school age) has done a remarkable job of "helping" young children believe in evolution.

Most current dinosaur books for children also add that dinosaurs aren't extinct; they just evolved into birds. "Wait a minute," you might say! They evolved into birds? I never saw that in my books! That's right. That concept became popular in the last 30 years.

One reason evolutionists believe this comes from the observation that some similar (but superficial) characteristics are shared between dinosaurs and birds. However, I feel the real reason most staunch evolutionists push this is because

they have been lamenting for years that kids are still not as receptive to the "science of evolution" as they would like.

Therefore, they want to make sure that kids have more evolutionary training at the prekindergarten ages before they are "indoctrinated" by their parents. What better way? Since kids love dinosaurs, why not introduce them to the notion that birds evolved from dinosaurs. So, great artwork is presented showing dinosaurs with feathers and front legs turning into wings. (See Ellie Huspen's article on page 3 to understand that birds are not dinosaurs.)

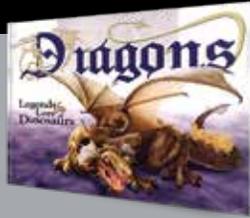
As you tend to your kiddo's dinosaur wound on your leg, understand there is a much larger issue for your family that has taken an even bigger bite out of your children's faith. What can a parent do? First, take time to discern the contents of your children's books. Then, discuss the evolutionary bias that is being presented and give them a reasonable, alternative explanation. Don't be surprised if your young child in dino pajamas says to you, "Bu..bu.. but my book said it was true, an...and my teacher said it was true, too!" (Actual conversation with Mary Jo's 6-year-old distant cousin.)

Finally, make sure you get your whole family several quality books and DVD's on dinosaurs from a Creation perspective. (See page 2.) 

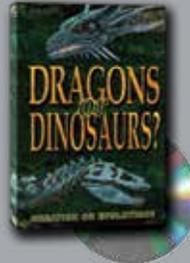


Great Dinosaur Resources

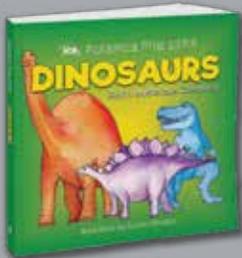
Teachers (home, public, or Sunday school) have a unique opportunity to help kids who might become trapped by evolutionary indoctrination or anti-God philosophies. First of all, prepare yourself. Take advantage of our **FREE** on-line teaching sessions listed on Page 4 of this issue. Also, besides the dinosaur book mentioned below in the book review, here are some other great resources available to share with children.



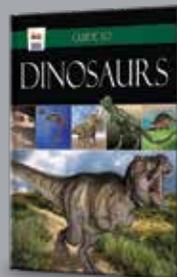
Legends & Lore of Dinosaurs
Fun book with windows to open with great information kids-adult.
\$19 plus S/H



Dragons or Dinosaurs? Documentary DVD Kids and adults enjoy seeing the connection between dinosaurs and so called “mythical dragons.”
\$20 plus S/H



Dinosaurs: God's Mysterious Creatures For young children. Book has solid information rather than “fluff.” **\$9** plus S/H



Guide to Dinosaurs A book for upper elementary to adults that will help you all stand firm.
\$20 plus S/H



Dinosaurs - Marvels of God's Design by Dr. Tim C. Clary

Review by Dave Nutting

Our Creation and Worldview teacher,

Scott Mauser, brought this book he loves to my attention, so I thought I'd bring it to your attention too! It is good!!

Dinosaurs – Marvels of God's Design is written for adults as well as children with lots of pictures! It presents solid, scientific evidence to combat the standard evolutionary dogma about dinosaurs.

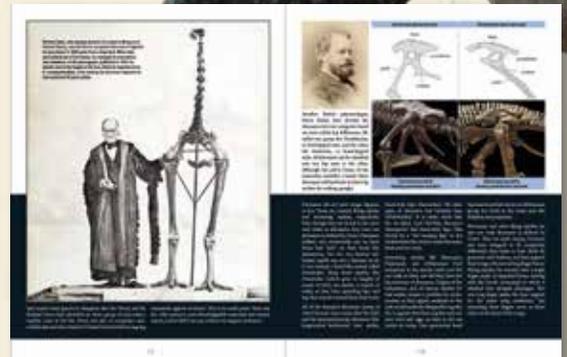
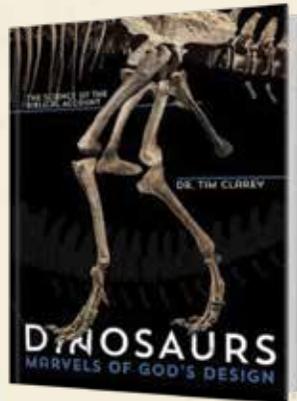
Dr. Clary's book will answer how dinosaurs are part of God's Creation along with questions about dinosaur anatomy,

extinction, and important discoveries. (Some of those major dinosaur discoveries were within 1/2 mile from my house!)

This book is crucial for those who have been “held captive (Col 2:8)” by the evolutionary hype surrounding these amazing creatures and want to explain how they fit into the Biblical record.

Help your family stand firm on God's Word even with dinosaurs!

Available from AOI for **\$27** plus S/H. **AOI**



Birds Are Not Dinosaurs

by Ellie Huspen (AOI Intern)

“Feathered Dinosaur Fossil Found!” “Birds Are Living Dinosaurs!” “T-Rex: A Distant Ancestor of the Chicken in Your Backyard!” You may have seen headlines like these in the news. In fact, if you go to your local museum you will likely be astonished that the dinosaurs are now covered in fuzz and feathers. What’s going on?

The theory that birds are an evolutionary branch of dinosaurs has gained prominence within the scientific community for the last 30 years. The idea goes like this: A branch of theropods (meat-eating dinosaurs) evolved through various intermediate stages from a flightless land animal to a winged flier.

Traditionally, dinosaurs were defined as a group of reptiles with upright legs under their body like a horse. All other reptiles have sprawling legs, like lizards – or no legs, like snakes. A key trait of reptiles is their scales – folds in the skin with a hardened shell. Reptiles shed their scales by completely removing the outermost layer of skin in a sheet.

Birds, on the other hand, have feathers. Feathers grow out of follicles, much like hair.

But, unlike hair, feathers have highly complex structures. For

example, flight feathers have a flat surface called a vane, made up of barbs that branch out into barbules. The barbs start from the spine (rachis) of the feather. When a bird grooms its feathers, it “zips” tiny little hooks on the barbules which link the barbs together into a smooth, flexible surface.



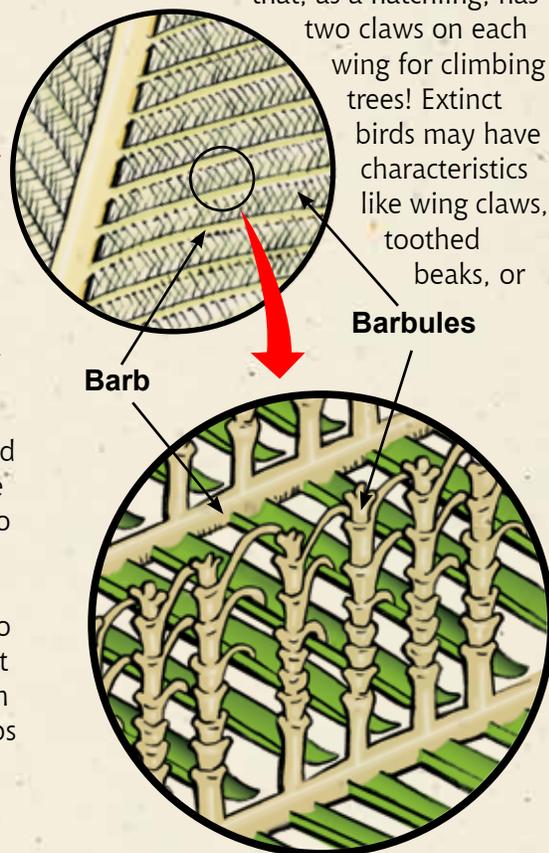
For a reptile to become a bird, scales are assumed to have evolved into feathers. The process, according to evolution is: 1. Have a hollow tube growing out of a follicle. (How we go from scales to modified hair is not explained.) 2. Barbs develop from the tube as a type of fuzz. 3. Barbs branch into hook-less barbules and the tube becomes a rachis. 4. Hooks evolve on the barbules and the vane is formed. 5. Flight feathers develop into asymmetric forms and then shape into wings.

Steps 1 and 3 have not been found in the fossil record. Step 2 has been supposedly found in the form of “proto-feathers.” However, other evolutionary paleontologists have suggested that “proto-feathers” are not early feathers but fossilized, degraded collagen fibers from decaying skin. Steps 4 and 5 are found on supposed “bird dinosaurs” as preserved feathers.

But are “bird dinosaurs” really dinosaurs? Paleontologists argue that because fossils like Archaeopteryx and Microraptor have claws on their wings, they are “missing links” between reptiles

and birds. However, many living birds have claws on their wings obscured by feathers. Take a close look next time you get a whole chicken from the store. You may find a small wing claw, or spur, on your chicken’s wing. Ducks, geese, ostriches, and many other birds have spurs on their wings. There is even a bird called a Hoatzin

that, as a hatchling, has two claws on each wing for climbing trees! Extinct birds may have characteristics like wing claws, toothed beaks, or



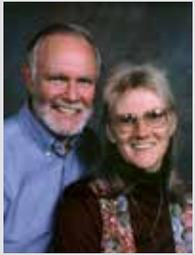
long tails, but that does not mean they are dinosaurs. Feathers on a fossil still equal a bird.

Other problems exist with trying to turn a reptile into a bird. From completely different ways of breathing to differing bone structures, there are more steps to get a bird from a dinosaur than just scales to feathers.

Genesis 1 states that God created all flying creatures, including birds, on Day Five. Land animals, like dinosaurs, were created on Day Six. Ironically, for those who try to turn Genesis into an evolutionary timeline, birds come before dinosaurs! Therefore, dinosaurs have always been dinosaurs and birds have always been birds. **AOI**

Director's Column

by Dave Nutting



“Evolution Exposed! The Science They Don't Teach” That was the conference title for the presentations

Mary Jo and I gave at universities in Minnesota this fall. We repeated the main programs (1-3 below) for both universities and delivered additional sessions for the campus churches. Question-and-answer sessions were also included. Although the on-campus programs were lightly attended, the campus ministries had all

sessions live-streamed with many viewers. To view those live recordings, email DaveNutting@DiscoverCreation.org for the links to the following:

1. **Biological “Proofs” of Evolution Fail...** The Evidence Cries Out: Designed!
2. **What Do Fossils Say About Evolution?** Nothing! Rocks Don't Talk.
3. **Geology: Who's the Hero of the Plot?** Time, Water, or Catastrophe?
The other sessions at the university campus churches were also recorded:
4. **The Grand Canyon** – A Different View
5. **Dinosaurs, Dragons, and Man**
6. **A Biblical View of Creation** (2 Peter 3) 

Host a seminar!

Email AOI@DiscoverCreation.org or call (970)523-9943.



Vernal Creation Conference

February 6-8, Ashley Valley Calvary Chapel – Vernal, UT

Join AOI speakers, bird/wildlife expert Mike Smith, and others for this creation seminar. Amazing Displays and Exhibits! Live Raptors! For more Info: VernalCreationMuseum.org



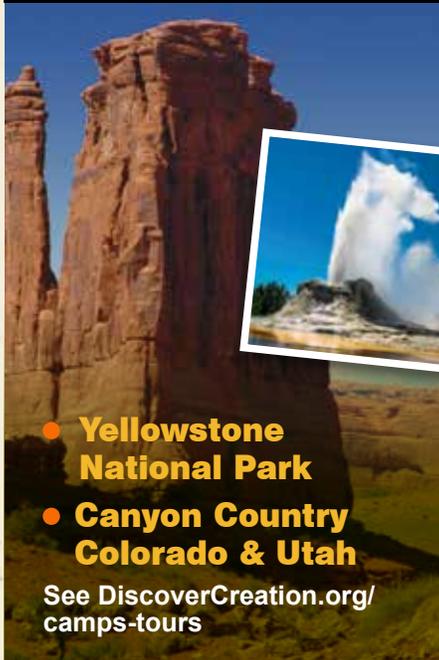
Training with AOI

Join us online via Zoom, or choose from short-term, in-person options. Email DaveNutting@DiscoverCreation.org for more information.

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