While we were in Pittsburgh in August, 1998, the local papers reported exciting news of three different fossils of "Feathered Dinosaurs from China." We were told these fossils provided conclusive proof that dinosaurs evolved into birds. We were also warned that the fossils were on exhibit only at the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, that they would only remain in the United States until September 12th, that, after that, they would return to China, and would likely never return. Glenn Kailer and I spent a couple hours studying these fossils. I naturally thought of the format I used in studying these fossils. I used an abbreviation of that format:

The Evidence: These fossil creatures had some "reptilian traits" (bony tail; teeth; claws on wings; structural similarity to some small, 3-toed dinosaurs), but, like birds, they had feathers. Therefore they are proof dinosaurs evolved into birds.

1. Evolution Proofs are Internally Irrational - you need little formal training in "science" to see it.
   - Similar structures are not a proof of genetic/parental relationship. Ford and Chevrolet cars are almost identical in every respect, but they don't even have genes... they did not evolve from each other, or a common ancestor. They are created by creators that usually don't even know each other.
   - Similar structures in animals which no one believes are "closely related" also abound in nature as they do in man's creations. It is irrational to argue that similar structures are proof of close relationship in one case, but are proof of "convergence" in another case (See "convergence" below)

2. Evolution Proofs are the Worst Possible Interpretation of the Data
   - The only creator we have empirically observed (Man), builds countless similar structures in separately created objects (like the cars above). Furthermore, even simple functional structures, such as pocket combs, never form by evolutionary processes (random errors in the plans). Even pocket combs must be created! The structures evolutionists prattle about are all extremely complex, no man can build them. And, as we'll see below, all animal structures are tightly integrated with many other complex structures in their body. "Product of random processes" is the worst possible interpretation of the data. "An incredibly talented creator" is a far better conclusion from the data. There is no other sane conclusion.

3. Evolution Proofs Always Involve Willful Deception
   - The irrationality of evolution "proofs" is easily spotted without formal training. Deception requires investigation:
      - The diagnostic characteristic for birds has always been feathers. Any encyclopedia or zoology book will confirm this. If they have feathers, by their own standards, they are birds. It is deception to call these creatures "feathered dinosaurs." And, the fossils looked like birds! Not robins, one was like a three foot tall ostrich. Even the feathers on the one had Ostrich characteristics. I'm not saying it was an Ostrich. It was similar. The one that was supposed to have "down" looked a little like a small Emu. Of course, it could have been just a young bird.
      - The evidence presented withholds from laymen some very untidy facts:
         - Bony tails are not diagnostic of reptiles. All birds have bony tails! Most (today) do not have long ones. Archaeopteryx was a bird that had a long bony tail. Mammary glands are also rare in animals that lay eggs, the Platypus has them, but will not fit on any evolution tree between reptiles and mammals.
         - Teeth are not diagnostic of either reptile or bird. Some reptiles have teeth, some don't. Some birds have teeth, some do not.
         - Claws on wings are not diagnostic of reptiles, they don't even have wings. The claws on these wings are not located in the same way as their supposed ancestor, and they are not unique to these birds. Other birds, past and present, have claws on the wings. Bony tails, teeth and claws are no more proof that birds evolved from dinosaurs than gears in automobiles are proof that they evolved from pocket watches.

Creation Safaris

1998 Safaris Going Strong...

27 cars and 127 people joined Fossil Hunt #1, 66 People on the Ha Ha Tonka Weekend, 48 on the 4-day Western Kansas Geology Safari, 26 attended the Geology of Kansas City Safari, 50 enjoyed some great finds on Fossil Hunt #2, and 53 enjoyed the Ozark Cave Outing.

Coming Soon...

Oct 16 - Astronomy, Planets/Constellations: 7:00PM, The Berry Patch
Oct 17 - KATY BikeTrail (Mo. River Bluffs): 9:00AM-5:00PM
Nov 13 - Astronomy, Planets/Constellations: 7:00PM, The Berry Patch
Nov 21 - Squaw Creek Game Refuge 9AM - 5PM. Migration, Bald Eagles, Geese, Ducks, Deer, Hiking, Picnic, Devotion, Seminar
Dec 13 (Sunday): Astronomy, Meteors- 6:00PM, The Berry Patch

Important Note: CSA does not charge for safaris, but, some of the places we visit do have entrance fees, and we do request that you make safari reservations so we can plan properly. To make reservations, call (816) 618-3610. To find out safari details, request a copy of the brochure: "1998 Detailed Safari Information," which will give you costs, meeting place, time of departure and return, what to bring, safari registration information, etc.
• **Are You Sure These Fossils Even Had Feathers?**
  - Two of the "feathered dinosaurs" exhibited **no feathers that we could find**. One exhibited some dark stains in places near the periphery. They claimed the other was covered with "down-like" feathers, but we couldn't see it. To be sure, we do not spend our lives looking for proof of evolution among the rocks. But, for all the claims of "proof," I was astounded that the drawings that accompanied the fossils did not even contain arrows or circles calling attention to the areas where the fossils supposedly contained feathers.
  - The third fossil had reasonably clear feather impressions in two places, the tail and a tuft halfway down the leg. It was impossible to be certain if the feathers belonged to the creature, or to another buried at the same time, the latter being more poorly preserved. And, considering the nature of past evolution **evidence**, the whole thing could be a fraud. The actual "fossil evidence for evolution" is virtually never put on public display. And, few people realize that, even "experts," are seldom allowed to see it. Therefore, it is unlikely that anyone believing feathers on these "dinosaurs" actually **proved evolution**, will ever know (in this life) whether the animals causing these fossils even had feathers.
  - While the **fossils** had few or no feathers, the **models were, of course, covered with feathers!** Typical of evolutionary proofs, persuasion and art play a much larger roll than evidence.
  - **Convergence** is a term unknown to most laymen, but well known to all teachers of evolution. When evolutionists believe one animal descended from another, they always argue that similar structures are evidence for evolutionarily close relationship (e.g., claws, teeth, tails). However, when they find similar structures in animals that they cannot fit on their favorite "tree of lineage," they announce that "Mother Nature converged on the same (or similar) structures multiple times." In other words the same feature evolved two or more times. It is well known that "convergence is everywhere." The deception lies in the fact that when they draw their neat little trees and they **HIDE the fact that the real biological world will not fit on them.** Consider some reptile and bird facts:
    - **Reptiles** have the lowest metabolic rate on the planet. They are universally incapable of sustained rapid activity. **Birds** have the highest metabolic rate on the planet. Some are capable of flying nonstop for thousands of miles.
    - **Reptiles** are endothermic (no system to regulate body heat). Temperatures below their designed range of activity result in near cessation of body functions. **Birds** are endothermic (have systems to regulate body heat) like mammals. The respiratory and circulatory systems of the two groups are entirely different.
    - Reptile growth usually slows with age, but they have the potential to continue growing as long as they live! They live a long time and tend to grow quite large from a small beginning. **Birds**, like mammals reach a designed growth limit and stop. Complex systems control this process.
    - **Scales** are folds in a tough hide that effectively triples its thickness. Feathers grow from follicles deep in the skin, and are extremely complex in structure and function. They did not evolve from scales. Incidentally, God did use scales in the legs and feet of birds, and the feet of some mammals, where they provide obvious benefits.
    - **Reptile scales (skin)** is dry, tough, and has few or no glands associated with it. **Bird skin** is tender and has important glands associated with it, e.g., oil glands to waterproof the feathers. Remember every body organ is an extremely complex, fully automatic factory, completely integrated into the entire system of the animal. If birds did not preen their feathers, oil glands would serve no purpose.
    - Number of vertebrae in birds vary in the extreme, from 39 - 63 with remarkable neck variation of 9 - 25 vertebrae. If one reptile evolved into a bird, he had a remarkable amount of evolution to do, just to produce the vertebrae variety in the rest of the bird species.
    - **Flight** - a property of most birds, requires a completely different set of bones, "arms," muscles, stamina, etc.
    - **To make a bird out of a reptile, you must redesign the entire creature from the inside out. You cannot simply stick some feathers on the body!**

4 *The Data Actually Supports Biblical Creation*

- Unless you actually watched the animal breed and the offspring hatch, there is absolutely no way you can assert that one animal sired another. When you dig up a fossil, or see one someone else dug, you cannot know whether the creature had **any** offspring, much less sired the one 10 feet away in the rocks.
- Every animal on the planet is extremely well designed, yet there is tremendous variation among them. "Similarities" shown on evolutionary trees are always superficial, and always suppress the enormous differences.
- Every structure pointed at gleefully by evolutionists as evidence of their beliefs is always so complex that it would be futile to even start trying to build it, and it is always superbly and intricately integrated into the creature where it is found, even often being used differently than it might be in other creatures.
- This complexity and high degree of integration supports God's assertion, "As the Heavens are higher that the earth, so are my thoughts [and my ways] higher than yours." These structures, then, are infallible evidence that:
  - A being for more powerful and knowledgeable than man created them
  - They were not done by a committee of gods, but by a single mind with vast intellect and technology

We are, I suppose, free to speculate that they were all designed by an intelligent little twerp sitting on another planet in another galaxy. But, "As for me and my house, we will serve the **Lord**!" I have no intention of discarding what Jesus did for me, much less facing him on judgment day, with such a superficial sales pitch. He would certainly have cause to remind me that He had warned "Professing themselves wise, they became fools" (Romans 1:22).

*by Tom Willis*
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October 6, 1998: Geology - Coal, Volcanoes, Canyons. Ken Carlson is an international Fuels Consultant who has visited coal mines all over the world.

November 3, 1998: Astronomy and Cosmology - Do the Heavens Really Declare the Glory of God? Larry Rink has devoted over 10 years to the study of Astronomy.

December 1, 1998: Radioactive Decay and the Age of the Earth. Mark Matthews is an Environmental Engineer with a degree in Nuclear Engineering