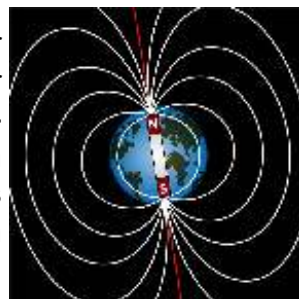




GOD did it FIRST!

The Magnetic Compass

MAGNETIC compasses have been used for hundreds of years to help people find their way. How do they work? The simplest compasses have a floating metal needle which always points in the same direction. This is because the earth is like a giant magnet with an invisible "magnetic field" (right).



A simple magnetic compass

Wikipedia photo



By Andreas Trepte: Wikipedia

How to make a simple compass



You can make a simple compass with a needle, piece of cork and bowl of water. See www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Compass You may need an adult to help you.

A compass needle points towards the earth's "magnetic pole", which is somewhere near the North Pole. This means you can use a compass to show you where north, south, east and west are even without a map or a "Sat-Nav."

Did you know that God created the first magnetic compass? For many years scientists couldn't understand how birds like homing pigeons (above) could find their way home after being released in places they had never been to before. Scientists used X-Rays to examine the pigeons' upper beaks, and discovered tiny iron particles which change direction, like a compass needle. This means that pigeons use earth's magnetic field to navigate!

Evolution can't explain how those iron particles got into the pigeons' beaks. This is another example of God doing it first!

GOD CARES FOR BIRDS, BUT CARES MORE FOR US!

BIRDS are wonderful creatures. There are so many different kinds. Some are very beautiful, with dazzling colours. Some can fly long distances, while others can't fly at all. God must have really enjoyed creating them in all their great variety!

The idea that birds evolved from dinosaurs doesn't fit with the evidence we have. Modern-type birds were living at the same time as dinosaurs, and the feathers of birds could never have evolved from the scales of reptiles. We believe birds have always been birds since God created them in the beginning.

God cares for all His creatures, including birds. His Son, Jesus, said: "Look at the birds in the air. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns. But your heavenly Father feeds the birds." (*Matthew 6: 26*). Jesus also said that God cares for sparrows, and reminded His disciples, "Don't be afraid. You are worth much more than many sparrows." (*Luke 12: 6*).



A sparrow feeding her babies in their nest. She cares for them, and God cares, too.

Jesus came from heaven to earth to show that God loves and cares for us. Unlike sparrows, we need God's forgiveness for all the wrong things we have done. That's why Jesus died on the cross for us. "If we confess our sins, he will forgive our sins... He will make us clean from all the wrongs we have done." (*1 John 1: 9*). Jesus came back to life again, and all who accept Him will live with Him for ever. In 1905 Civilla D. Martin wrote these words:

*I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
For His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me.
Can you sing those words, and really mean them?*

PUZZLE ANSWERS

1. Swallow. 2. Sparrow. 3. Eagle. 4. Penguin. 5. Magpie. 6. Parrot. 7. Peacock. 8. Pigeon. 9. Swan. 10. Ostrich.

JUMBLED BIRDS:

1. Extra birds. 2. Less fruit on tree. 3. Rabbit moved. 4. Missing smoke. 5. Extra flowers. 6. Sun lower. 7. Missing trees. 8. Extra rabbit. 9. Missing sheep. 10. Extra bush.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE:

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Birds are some of the most wonderful of God's designs!

THE LORD GOD MADE THEM ALL!

Birds come in lots of shapes and sizes, from the giant Albatross which flies up to 120,000 km (75,000 miles) in a year over the ocean, to the tiny Bee Hummingbird which hovers in the air to suck nectar from flowers with its long tongue.

Many birds are very beautiful, such as the *Rainbow Lorikeet* (below) and the *Mandarin Duck* (bottom left). Many people believe that this beauty was an accident, but we believe that God made them. In the words of the writer of the hymn *All Things Bright and Beautiful*: "He made their glowing colours; He made their tiny wings."



Wandering Albatrosses are the largest flying birds, measuring up to 3.7 metres (12 feet) across their wings!



Pixabay.com



By Mark Anderson: Wikipedia



By Andrew Mercer: Wikipedia



pxhere.com

Duck (bottom left). Many people believe that this beauty was an accident, but we believe that God made them. In the words of the writer of the hymn *All Things Bright and Beautiful*: "He made their glowing colours; He made their tiny wings."



The Bee Hummingbird is only 6cm (2.4 ins) long!

Wikipedia photo by Charles J Sharp

The tail that made Charles Darwin feel sick!



Charles Darwin persuaded many people that all living things came by gradual evolution, but he had a problem explaining why peacocks (left) have such beautiful tail feathers. In 1860, in a letter to a friend, he admitted: "The sight of a feather in a peacock's tail, whenever I gaze at it, makes me sick!" Why would these birds need such a tail, since many birds survive very well without such brilliant colours? A peacock's tail would make it more easily seen by its enemies, and, being so big, would also slow it down. Each feather has a beautiful eye pattern (right). How could this have evolved by accident? As the feathers grow, the pattern in each feather stays in perfect shape. This looks like the work of a Creator who loves beauty!



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ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Did dinosaurs turn into birds?

Did birds *learn* to fly? Modern birds lived with dinosaurs!

Nature Notes:

Why we have 4 seasons
Feathers from Scales?

"Missing link" was a true bird!

Look at a feather!

Puzzle Corner

God did it first!

The Magnetic Compass
God cares for birds, but cares more for us!

DID DINOSAURS TURN INTO BIRDS?

THE theory of evolution says that everything must have evolved from something else. So we are told that gradually, over millions of years, birds evolved from dinosaurs like *T. Rex* (right). This would have meant that dinosaurs needed to shrink to become at least 200 times smaller! Can you really believe that tiny hummingbirds evolved from giant dinosaurs? There are no fossils to show that this actually happened.



DID BIRDS LEARN TO FLY?

Did they practise by running and flapping their wings, or by jumping out of trees? Suppose they didn't get it right the first time?

God made every bird that flies.
(The Bible, Genesis 1: 2)



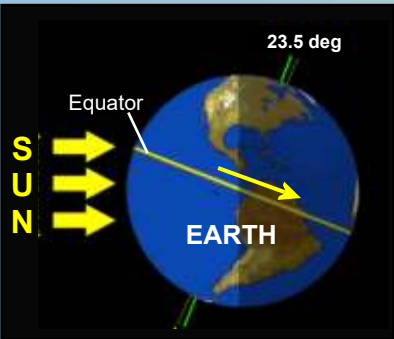
Modern birds lived with dinosaurs!

Did you know that the fossils of many kinds of modern birds – including the ones below – have been found in the same rocks as dinosaur fossils? Most people don't know this, but this shows that modern birds couldn't have evolved from dinosaurs!



Parrot Owl Duck Avocet

NATURE NOTES by the editor



If you live in the northern or southern hemisphere away from the equator you will know that the length of day and night changes. When the days are shortest it's winter and when they are longest it's summer. In between come autumn and spring, making the four seasons (right). This is because the earth, which is spinning like a top every 24 hours, is not perfectly upright but tilted 23.5 degrees (left).



The earth travels around the sun once each year. It can only shine on half of the earth at once, so the part that is tilted away from it has winter, with less sunshine and shorter days. Then, in summer, the same part is tilted towards the sun, giving it more sunshine and longer days. When countries in the northern hemisphere are having winter, those in the southern hemisphere have their summer. The North and South Poles have 6 months of darkness in winter and 6 months of daylight in summer! Most scientists believe that life on earth would be difficult, or even impossible if our planet were upright, because most of the sun's heat would then fall on the equator, while the lower and higher parts would be too cold.

Some scientists say that the earth was once spinning upright, until, millions of years ago, some huge object collided with it. There is no evidence for this – it's just a story. Our wonderful world, with its changing seasons, life and beauty, is surely not the way it is because of some accidental collision! We believe God created it the way it is, and He promised: "As long as the earth continues, there will be planting and harvest. Cold and hot, summer and winter, day and night will not stop." (Genesis 8: 22). —Geoff Chapman

FEATHERS FROM SCALES: REALLY?

Reptiles have scales and birds have feathers. The evolution theory says that feathers evolved from the scales of reptiles, which somehow got frayed, but when we look at the difference between scales and feathers this idea seems unbelievable. Scales are just folds in the skin, and reptiles moult (lose their whole skin) regularly, to replace their scales. Feathers each grow from a single "root" known as a *follicle*, and birds moult their feathers separately.



A lizard moulting



Above are the hard scales of a crocodile. These are very different from the soft feathers of a bird (below). It seems impossible to believe that scales could have turned into feathers.



LOOK AT A FEATHER!

If you find a feather, feel it and look at it closely. If you use a magnifying glass, you will see that it's made of tiny hooks and barbs, which "zip" together, making it warm and waterproof. A feather is really one of God's masterpieces!



"Missing link" was a true bird!

When fossils of *Archaeopteryx* (left) were first found in 1861, many people said it was a "missing link" between dinosaurs and birds, because it had feathers, and also teeth and wing claws. However, some modern birds have wing claws, and some ancient birds had teeth. The fact is, *Archaeopteryx* was a true bird with real feathers, and could fly like modern birds.



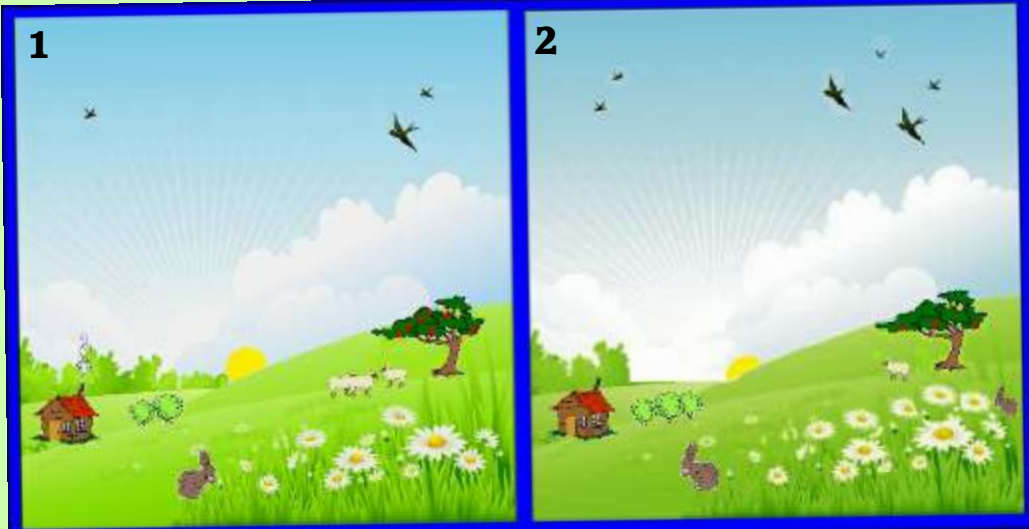
This model of archaeopteryx shows it was a true bird



The Tundra Swan (above) has 25,000 feathers!

PUZZLE CORNER

Can you spot the 10 differences between pictures 1 and 2?



Unjumble the names of the birds below:

- 1. SLOWWAL
- 2. WARPROS
- 3. GALEE
- 4. GUNINEP
- 5. MIEPAG
- 6. ROTARP
- 7. KACECOP
- 8. GIPONE
- 9. NAWS
- 10. CHORITS

(Answers on the next page)

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