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# ETCSA

East Tennessee Creation Science Association

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## Woodpeckers By Mark Stewart

One of the most interesting sights you probably recall from childhood experience was a woodpecker hammering furiously against a tree. I have on a number of occasions. I have also seen hummingbirds. Anyone who has spent much time in the woods in almost any part of the United States has heard the familiar rat-a-tat-tat of a woodpecker banging his sharp, stout beak against wood. Woodpeckers have some of the most remarkable habits of all living things. They are another amazing example of highly specialized creatures who obtain their food in a very unusual manner.

One ornithologist told of seeing a woodpecker land on his favorite oak tree. Seeing the blurred head as the bird furiously hacked clouds of splinters and sawdust out of his favorite tree, the man shouted at the bird, then decided to girdle the part of the tree the woodpecker had attacked with a heavy mesh wire, in an attempt to discourage it. But the woodpecker was soon back. This time, the

man found the wire mesh in shreds, and the bird busily drilling deeper into his tree! Finally, however, after finding the going a good bit tougher through the wire, and after being frightened away repeatedly, the bird was heard by the owner of the tree drilling away on trees more distant in the forest. Several years later, he reported, a severe storm snapped his beautiful oak tree right where the woodpecker had been drilling. Deep within the trunk, the ornithologist discovered a big colony of carpenter ants, and a labyrinth of galleries they gnawed inside it. It was then the man decided that, had he permitted the woodpecker to clean out that ant nest, he would still have his beautiful oak tree, only made more rustic by the familiar drilling marks of the bird families' answer to the jack-hammer, the woodpecker.

But how did the woodpecker know those ants were deep inside a tough old oak? Why does a woodpecker obtain his food in the most difficult manner possible? Could woodpeckers

*(Continued on page 3)*

### Inside this issue:

<i>Legolution</i>	2
<i>Quotes</i>	2
<i>Moonstruck</i>	4

### Special points of interest:

- *August meeting: 21st, First Baptist Concord @ 6:00*
- *Meeting:*
- *meeting:*
- *Coming this fall: Danny Faulkner and Robert Gentry*
- *We have books, videos and tapes for sale! Check out our website for more details: [www.etsa.org/](http://www.etsa.org/)*

## DEVOTIONAL - THE WOLF AND LAMB TOGETHER

“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them” (Isaiah 11:6). This scene seems impossible; could it be merely an allegory? But that isn't all. “The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat.

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD” (Isaiah 65:25). Whether this will all come to pass literally (and there is nothing in the context to cause us to question it), it definitely describes what God considers the ideal state of nature. In fact, in the original creation, all animals were herbivorous. “And God said, Behold, . . . to every

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Legolution - Part one by Karl Crawford

Just the other day Lenny Lego came home from school and his Grandfather found Lenny sitting in a chair with a puzzled look on his face. Grand Pa Lego wondering what was wrong with his Grandson came over and sat beside Lenny and asked “Why the perplexed look Lenny?” In which Lenny replied back with uncertainty, “Well in school today, our science teacher told us that we evolved from a common block ancestor,” Lenny continued with, “and that the pictures he showed of extinct Lego animals proved it. My teacher told us that the similarities of the Lego animals all but proved we’re all related. My teacher said that because we have the same type of interconnecting blocks which when snapped together form similar feet, bodies and arms prove we are all descendents of an original Lego organism.” Lenny then sat back and after a few seconds looked at his Grand Pa and continued with, “And it all seems to make sense to me. Besides the pictures my teacher had models of them all lined up in a row. Each Lego animal had the same type of feet. Each Lego animal had the same square blocky head, each Lego block has the same plug and socket for joining the blocks together... just like us Grandpa.”

Grandpa Lego then took a deep breath to explain to Lenny the truth behind the evolution of Lego people

when Lenny blurted out with “Grand Pa, where did we come from? Why do we have similar parts? Does this prove we evolved from a common Lego block?” In which Grand Pa Lego replied back with, “Lenny, we know the history of the first Lego man. He was created fully formed and complete although Lenny, some will present the argument or a similar argument to us like your science teacher did. The reason why we have such similar body parts is because our Creator used the same style of building blocks. What works for us works for the Lego cow and the Lego fish. No matter what is built from the Lego blocks, they will always be similar. The so-called evolution story is just an attempt to strip our creator of the glory of his work and the magnificent ability to put together his building blocks to serve a useful purpose. Remember Lego legs should be similar Lenny, whether the building blocks are used for a man, ape, cow, dinosaur, bird, or alligator. The only difference would be the need for a slightly different arrangement of the building blocks to better suite the Lego animal for their particular environment or lifestyle, Lenny. Grandpa then smiled as the realization of the truth settled into his block shaped brain. A common creator would use common building blocks in a common design when He created life.

### Quotes

"I am much afraid that the schools will prove the very gates of hell, unless they diligently labor in explaining the holy scriptures, and engraving them in the hearts of youth. I advise no one to place his child where scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution in which men are not unceasingly occupied with the word of god must be corrupt." Martin Luther

Luther also scorned theistic evolution, which was known among the educated of his day and is even more prevalent today: "It is not true," he wrote, "as several heretics and other vulgar persons allege, that God created everything in the beginning, and then let nature take its own independent course, so that all things now spring into being of their own power; thereby they put God on a level with a shoemaker or a tailor. This not only contradicts scripture, but it runs counter to experience".

“The universities only ought to turn out men who are experts in the Holy Scriptures, men who can become bishops and priests, and stand in the front and all the world. But where do you find

that? I greatly fear that the universities, unless they teach the Holy Scriptures diligently and impress them on the young students, are wide gates to hell. I would advise no one to send his child where the Holy Scriptures are not supreme. Every institution that does not unceasingly pursue the study of God’s Word becomes corrupt. Because of this we can see what kind of people they become in the universities and what they are like now.” Martin Luther

“The present fashionable practice of rejecting the Bible from our schools, I suspect, has originated with the Deists. They discover great ingenuity in this new mode of attaching Christianity. If they proceed in it, they will do more in half a century in extirpating our religion than [anti-religious philosophers] Bollingbroke or Voltaire could have effected in a thousand years.” Benjamin Rush, signer of Declaration of Independence

“I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given man, All the good from the Saviour of the world is communicated to us through this Book.” Abraham Lincoln

*(Continued from page 1)*

have "evolved" gradually - learning to "survive" in the only way possible for them, pecking deep into tough trees?

There are many different species of woodpeckers, one hundred seventy-nine in the world, and twenty-two of them in North America. They range in size from the huge pileated woodpecker (19 inches from tip of tail to tip of beak - about the size of a crow) to the tiny downy. Each species finds its food in a slightly different fashion, and feeds on different things.

The little downy feeds on caterpillars found in small twigs and tiny crevices, while the redheaded woodpecker (the one with which most people seem at least partly familiar) feeds on ants and grubs inside the trees. The gaudily decorated pileated woodpecker can strip the bark completely from a tree. One ornithologist watched a huge pileated woodpecker remove 30 feet of bark from a tree in less than 15 minutes! It had been attacked by carpenter ants, thus preventing the spreading of the ants to other healthy trees nearby. The Flicker (named because of the flash of white color on its wings in light) feeds on or near the ground, lapping up ants with its sticky tongue.

The woodpecker is totally different from other birds. First and most obvious is its beak. It is straight, very hard in comparison with most birds, and pointed. The head is constructed differently, too. The skull is much thicker than that of other birds, and the skull and beak are moved (sometimes more than 100 times a minute!) by powerful muscles. The bones between the beak and skull have their own built-in "shock absorbers", being constructed differently than those of other birds, which are usually directly joined together. Rather, in the woodpecker family, the beak and skull are joined by connective tissue that is spongy and elastic.

Every part of the woodpecker's anatomy is specially constructed for the sole purpose of drilling into wood. Their claws are divided into two sharp and powerful toes forward, and two backward, like a pair of ice tongs, for gripping the bark. Their tail feathers act as a brace, steadying the bird on a firm tripod as it whacks away. The tail feathers are unusually strong, and during molting season, the main propping feathers don't fall out until other feathers have already been replaced and can support the weight of the bird while the bigger, stronger feathers molt.

How do they locate their food? Once, a pileated woodpecker was observed whacking away on a tough old hickory. Ants were using a little knothole as an entrance into the tree - but the bird ignored the knothole. Instead it began pounding on the trunk as it slowly circled the tree - tapping, then pausing. Then it drilled its way into the very heart of the ant nest - five feet below the knothole the ants were using. Ornithologists speculate the woodpeckers use their acute sense of hearing (another remarkable part of their anatomical structure to locate the insects either by hearing the insects, or else detecting the subtle differences in the sounds of the woods over insect chan-

nels, or both. The woodpecker's tongue is perhaps its most remarkable instrument. In most cases, it is barbed, and about four times as long as the beak. The woodpecker shakes his tongue in and out of his beak like a snake's tongue. In some species, the tongue is coated with a sticky substance, used as bait to catch ants. A woodpecker will drill into a tree, then shake out its long, sticky tongue, waiting until the ants, believing it to be a worm invader, swarm all over it. The woodpecker then whips the unsuspecting ants into his mouth.

Three woodpeckers were being studied in a cage by ornithologists when they decided to attempt an experiment. The experimenters tried holding food above and behind the bird's heads, and were astonished when they whipped their tongues up over their heads, snatching away the food, without looking around, or turning their heads!

Every different woodpecker performs a special service in policing a balanced forest. Woodpeckers are the only creatures who spend most of their waking hours banging their heads against wood. They do this because of the role they seem to have been assigned in the living community: to glean insects from under the bark of trees.

But when did the very first woodpecker decided to peck wood? Think about it. Let's imagine the very first attempt of a woodpecker to peck wood. If evolution had occurred, then it had to start somewhere!

What made that first would-be woodpecker peck wood? Was it necessary for him to survive? That hardly seems likely. Millions of other birds are still with us; and they obtain their food many other ways. The would-be woodpecker would have to have his strong beak, his long tongue, his acute hearing, strong neck muscles, a thick skull, viselike toes and stiff tail feathers for support before he could start! The first would be woodpecker would have to have developed these things before he would be a woodpecker and if he already had these things he was already a woodpecker!! And yet this is essentially how woodpeckers survive, by pecking wood on trees and eating ants.

The woodpecker is a prime example of a specialized creature designed by an intelligent creator and cannot be explained logically in other terms.



“...the bird families' answer to the jack-hammer, the woodpecker.”

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**We're on the Web!**  
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# ETCSA

“Set in the Defense of Creation Science”

## Moonstruck

About 20 years ago, evolutionists started to think that "slow and gradual processes" could never have made the earth. Then they started talking about asteroids hitting the earth, huge local floods, times of great volcanoes, and sudden times of fast evolution. Nowadays, catastrophism is one of the tools of the evolutionary geologist. They used to look down on it, because only the creationists talked about it for the past 150 years.

In the 9/4/98 issue of Science magazine, new studies show that the core of earth's moon is unusually small. This goes along with the evolutionist idea that the moon was formed when some big object hit the earth and broke off a big piece of it. Wow. That object was supposed to have hit us about 4 bya (billion years ago).

It had to be about the size of the planet Mars. Now there's a catastrophe.

They can believe this, but they can't believe that we had one measly world-wide flood about 4000 years ago. Go figure. Sam Fox

*(Continued from page 1)*

beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so" (Genesis 1:29,30).

With man's fall into sin and God's resulting curse on the earth, this ideal state deteriorated. Teeth and claws, originally designed for digging roots and branches, began to be used for tearing and eating flesh. Even man was authorized by God to eat meat after the Flood (Genesis 9:3). It is still true, however, that both men and animals still can survive on a non-carnivorous diet when necessary, for this was designed initially as the best way, all of which leads to the certain conclusion that God did not allow any such reign of tooth and claw on the earth before man sinned. The contention of those who promote the idea of long geological ages, with billions of animals suffering and dying during those ages, charges our God of wisdom and mercy with gratuitous cruelty.

In a world made by a loving God, there could have been no death in the world until man brought sin into the world (Romans 5:12). Henry M Morris