

# WELL DESIGNED

## The Tailorbird

The future of all birds depends upon their eggs hatching safely. Most birds lay their eggs in a nest, where they are incubated until they hatch. One of the most skillful nest-builders is the **Tailorbird**. These 10–14 cm (5 inch) long songbirds live in the tropical areas of China, Malaysia, India and the Philippines.

Tailorbirds make their nests by sewing leaves together! They take a large leaf, fold it together, and punch holes in the edge with their beaks. Then they 'rivet' it together using strips of vegetable fibre or spiders' silk, making the leaf into a cup shape. They can even join lengths of thread together and tie knots! A single nest can contain between 150 and 200 stitches, and even has a roof to provide shelter from the monsoon rains and offer shade from the Sun. When they have finished sewing, the birds

build a nest of grass, down, and fine hair inside the leaf and lay their eggs in it. There they are kept safe until the baby birds hatch after about 12 days. The parents then feed them until they are able to fly and look after themselves.

**Did tailorbirds learn by trial and error how to rivet the leaves together by punching holes, and tying knots in thread? Could they have slowly evolved their nest-building skills? Surely they had to get it right the first time, or their nest would have collapsed and the eggs been smashed. Most birds don't go to all this trouble, so why do tailorbirds? We believe God created them with the ability to build their wonderful nests so that we could appreciate His creative design.**



The Common Tailorbird

Shantanu Kuveskar: CC BY-SA 4.0



A nest, showing the 'rivets'

By J M Garg: CC BY-SA 3.0

## Evidence matters!

When deciding whether something is true or false it's important to examine the available evidence carefully, and avoid foregone conclusions. In criminal investigations, detectives sometimes identify a suspect, only to discover later that they were wrong. Some evolutionists seem determined to find evidence to support their beliefs, and this often leads to error and the necessity to retract or revise their theories when contrary evidence is found. As we have seen, in the search for proof of human evolution particularly, fragmentary evidence is often enhanced by imaginative artistry.

Just suppose that evolution is not true, and that humans were specially created, as the Bible says (*Genesis 2: 7*). We would then expect to find evidence that humans have always been human, and no fossils of genuine "missing links." And that is exactly what we do find. Accepting the truth of the Bible and Christianity is not a leap in the dark. There is enough evidence — even to convince a sceptic.



Journalist Lee Strobel (left) was a hard-nosed atheist. When his wife became a Christian, he was determined to prove she had been misled by investigating all the evidence he could find, including the central Christian claim that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. The result? He found the evidence for the truth of the Bible and Christianity so convincing that he became a committed Christian, and has since been active in defending and promoting Christianity.\*

The Bible tells us that we were created to have a relationship with God, but that this relationship was broken when the first humans rebelled. God intervened by sending His Son Jesus Christ to make a way back through His death and resurrection. "If anyone belongs to Christ, there is a new creation. The old things have gone; everything is made new! All this is from God. Through Christ, God made peace between us and himself" (*2 Corinthians 5: 17-18*). Lee Strobel experienced this change. How about you? \*see [www.leestrobel.com](http://www.leestrobel.com)



## SMILE

What is the only time Friday comes before Thursday?  
In a dictionary  
How did the Vikings send messages?  
By Norse code  
Which creature is smarter than a talking parrot?  
A spelling bee.



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*Original View* is published three times a year by the Creation Resources Trust (Reg. Charity No. 1016666). Written, designed and edited by Geoff Chapman. There is no subscription charge, but donations are invited. Contact CRT at P O Box 3237, YEO-VIL, BA22 7WD. Phone: 01935 850569. Email: [info@crt.org.uk](mailto:info@crt.org.uk). Other resources available by post or on-line at [www.crt.org.uk](http://www.crt.org.uk). Scripture references are taken from The Holy Bible, New Century Version®. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.



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The REAL SCIENCE paper!



No. 94

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# NO BONES ABOUT IT!

The theory of evolution, including our supposed ape ancestry, depends a great deal on the evidence from fossils. However, this evidence is often fragmentary, and open to more than one interpretation. Many mistakes have been made, aided by media hype.

Famous anthropologist Richard Leakey (left) once complained that, while his excavations might reveal a human tooth, others would then over-interpret the evidence. The tooth would be turned into a person, in a family group, decently clad in furs, in a dwelling, with tools and artefacts. There was usually a fire burning and an animal spit-roasting, children were playing and so on and so forth. All this from just a tooth.<sup>1</sup>



By Ed Schipul: Wikipedia

1. Quoted by John A. Hoskins, *Reading the stones, Indoor+Built Environment* 11(2):57–58, March–April 2002; page 57.

## OUR 2LB. ANCESTOR?

"Man descended from 2lb. monkey" said the headline in the *Daily Telegraph* (28th May 1992), reporting on the discovery of fossils of "the oldest-known ancestor of all humans" (pictured above) in the Algerian desert. According to Prof. Jean-Jacques Jaeger, these creatures "lived on fruit and leaves and had learned to swing on tree branches with their tails." What was this fossil evidence? See page two.



## Ancestor had "a hairstyle like modern footballers"

On the right is a reconstruction of *Boxgrove Man*, a supposed ancestor of ours, whose fossil remains were found at Boxgrove, England in 1993. According to the *Daily Mail* (20th June 1995) he was "very muscular", weighed more than 13 stone, was 6ft. 3in tall, and had "the sort of hairstyle favoured by many of today's footballers." The report also said that *Boxgrove Man* — who was claimed to have lived half-a-million years ago — ate horse, rhino, cave bear and deer."

In view of all that detail, surely quite extensive fossil remains must have been found? To find out what all this was actually based upon, see page two.



Image from Crystallinks.com



## THE WHALE THAT WASN'T



According to the theory of evolution, whales evolved from ancestors which lived on the land.

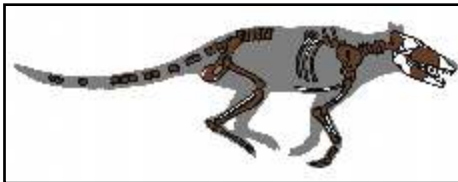
The transition from the land to the ocean has been a major challenge to evolutionists as they have searched for fossil evidence. Many candidates have been put forward, none of them convincing. One of these was *Pakicetus*, based on fragmentary pieces of a jaw and part of a skull (above left), found in Pakistan in 1981.



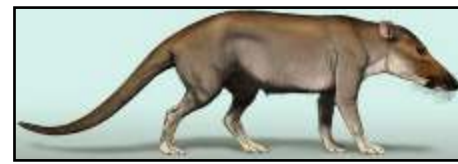
Based on this meagre evidence, imaginative reconstructions like the one on the left were produced.

Some years later, more extensive fossil remains were found, which proved that those earlier ideas were completely wrong.

### The *REAL* *Pakicetus*



The discovery of more extensive fossil remains (above) revealed that the earlier reconstructions were way out. *Pakicetus* was nothing like a whale, and certainly not a "missing link" between land animals and whales. The image below, based on those more complete fossil remains, reveals that it was clearly a land-dwelling creature — something like a wolf — and certainly not a "walking whale."



### From page one

The evidence for the "2lb monkey" which was claimed to be an ancestor of ours, was just three teeth! The creature they belonged to was named *Algeripithecus*. Despite those earlier claims, it's no longer regarded as a human ancestor, but thought to be related to living lemurs and lorises.

As for "Boxgrove Man", all that information about this so-called ancestor of ours, including his hairstyle, was based upon a 35 cm (14 in) length of shattered shin-bone! (right)



By Ethan Doyle White: CC BY-SA 3.0

## BIBLE-BELIEVING SCIENTISTS

### Dr Robert Carter, Marine Biologist

Dr Robert Carter obtained his BS in Applied Biology from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1992. He then spent four years teaching biology, chemistry, physics and electronics in high school, before obtaining his PhD in Marine Biology at the University of Miami, USA, in 2003.



A Caribbean Coral Reef

From 2001-2004, he helped design and build an aquaculture facility for Caribbean corals at the University's Experimental Fish Hatchery. During this time he performed over 500 research dives on the shallow coral reefs off the Florida Keys and Bahamas. Many of these were done at night to study the mass coral spawning episodes that happen at specific times during the warm summers.

Dr Carter became a Christian at an early age, but he had been taught that science and Christianity were incompatible. He knew what he wanted to believe, but had no way to express his thoughts, nor any evidence to support his views. At the age of 19, during his freshman year of college, he came across the evidence for creation. Soon after, he adopted it as the basis of his scientific work. He felt "a tremendous joy" when he realized his science and his religion were no longer at odds. This enabled him to keep his faith intact during the evolutionary training of his undergraduate and graduate programmes.

Dr Carter says, "Evolution is really the assumption of naturalism masquerading as science. Once I learned to question this underlying assumption, that natural processes can explain everything that ever was, is, or will be, the evolutionary story of origins crumbled like a house of cards. Real science is compatible with the Bible."

He is currently a senior scientist and speaker for *Creation Ministries International-USA*, and has produced a number of DVD lectures, including "Spectacular Coral Reefs: Evidence for The Great Flood and not millions of years of gradualism." (obtainable from [www.creation.com](http://www.creation.com))

Acknowledgements to *Creation Ministries International* for information in this article. See [www.creation.com](http://www.creation.com)

### JAWS AND TEETH ERROR

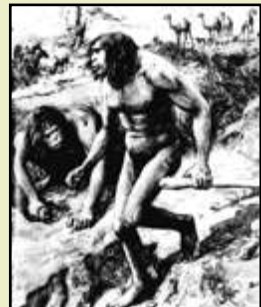
When scientists discovered some jaws and teeth (right) in North India in 1910, they confidently claimed they belonged to an early ancestor of humans. They named it *Ramapithecus*,



and pictured it as a stooping, hairy creature (left), despite the meagre evidence. Later, more extensive fossil remains were uncovered, and it was then admitted that *Ramapithecus* was not related to humans but to orang-utans.

Then there was *Nebraska Man*. On 22nd June 1922 *The Illustrated London*

*News* published a picture headed, "The earliest man tracked by a tooth; an astounding discovery." The picture (below), was based upon a single tooth, found in Nebraska, USA., which experts claimed possessed the characteristics of both apes and humans. Not long afterwards, it was revealed that the tooth belonged to a peccary — an extinct wild pig!



"Nebraska Man"

### Evolutionists put their foot in it!

**T**HE *Daily Mail* (29th July 1995) reported that British scientist Dr Ronald Clarke, found four fossil ankle bones (right) in a bag of rubble, which had been excavated from a cave in Sterkfontein, South Africa. He claimed that, when fitted together,



(left) the bones showed a pattern that was midway between the foot of an ape and a human foot. He said, "Here in this one combination of four bones, we have a real missing link... we have a man and an ape in one individual." The bones, which were claimed to belong with fossils of an ape-like creature nicknamed "Little Foot", were dated at 3.5 million years old. But was Dr Clarke using his own bias here, and arranging those four bones in a pattern which would confirm his theory?

Ironically, a decade later these fossils were re-dated at 2.2 million years old. *Science Daily* (8th December 2006) reported: "Ancient remains, once thought to be a key link

in the evolution of mankind, have now been shown to be 400,000 years too young to be a part of man's family tree."

*Ardipithecus kadabba* (right) was reconstructed from teeth and bits of bone collected over 5 years from 5 different locations. One toe bone was found 10 miles from the others, yet it was included with the others and claimed as proof that this creature was an "early human"

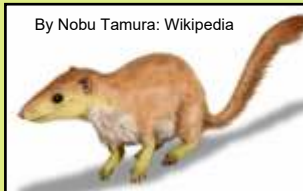


that walked upright! *Time* magazine (23rd July 2001) ran a special feature "One Giant Step for Mankind", with a picture of this supposed "5.6 million-year-old" ancestor of ours on the front cover. Incidentally, that toe bone was dated a few hundred thousand years younger than the other fossils! Is it really scientific to lump all those scattered bones together and claim they belonged to the same species? More like a giant leap of faith!



### JUST A FEW TEETH

*National Geographic* (26th October 2012) reported the discovery of fossils of *Purgatorius*. This was claimed to be the "65-million-year-old" ancestor of all primates, including humans, though not all scientists agree with this. Above is a reconstruction of *Purgatorius*. But what fossil evidence is it based on? Just a couple of teeth, a fragment of jaw, and some fragmented, scattered ankle bones collected from sites in northeastern Montana, USA, which may or may not have all belonged to the same creature.



By Nobu Tamura: Wikipedia

According to *Science Daily* (7th November 2017) "Fossils of the oldest mammals related to humankind have been discovered on the Jurassic Coast of Dorset in the UK." Actually, only two teeth were found, yet they were described as "the earliest undisputed fossils of mammals belonging to the line that led to human beings", and "unequivocally our earliest ancestors." Both teeth were different, so it was suggested they belonged to two different species. "One, a

possible burrower, dined on insects, while the larger may have eaten plants as well." The report also claimed that they were "furry", and probably came out at night — all this from two teeth! Undisputed? There is no chain of fossils leading from the creatures these teeth belonged to and ourselves.



By Mark Witton

Artist's impression, based on 2 teeth

### Only footprints...

In 1976, archaeologist Mary Leakey and her team discovered a trail of footprints (right) in hardened volcanic ash at Laetoli, Tanzania. Experts agreed that the prints were just like those of modern humans, yet they claimed they were made by one of our supposed ape-like ancestors. Why? Because they were dated at "3.6 million years old", and, according to evolution, humans weren't around that long ago! For this reason alone, reconstructions of the scene show two ape-like creatures walking through the ash. A clear case of theory coming before facts.



Science Photo Library



Reconstruction in the Dar es Salaam National Museum