

# Evolution 101

## Lesson 10

**The so-called proofs of macroevolution are not impress-sive.** It is clear that the fossils in the rocks do not show any specimens that bridge the gaps between the major groups of animals. Nor are there any examples of a transition from apes or monkeys to man. Interestingly, there are many fossils of modern man found in strata that are as old or older than so-called ape-men. These true men, **Casten-odolo Man, Calaveras Man, Natchez Man** and **1470 Man** are rejected, not because of the evi-dence but because they are older than their supposed ancestors.

### SHOWCASE EXAMPLES OF EVOLUTION

For a long time the textbooks have presented the cases of the Peppered Moth and Archaeopteryx, the primordial bird, as prime of examples of evolution in action.

The **Peppered Moth** appears in two varieties, dark and light in coloring. Before the industrial revolution in England, the light variety was the more numerous. At that time the bark of the trees (where the moths rested in the daytime) was light colored. This afforded better camouflage from predator birds for the light variety. As a result, the population of the dark variety dimin-ished rapidly but not to extinction.

In due time the pollution from industry caused the bark on trees to turn dark. This resulted in better camouflage from predator birds for the dark variety. Soon the population of the dark peppered moths increased rapidly while the light variety (now with less cam-ouflage protection) diminished in numbers but not to extinction.

Today, after anti-pollution mea-sures have been taken, the trees in the English countryside are now beginning to turn light again. Now the population of light colored moths is beginning to increase while the population of the dark variety is decreasing.

According to the textbooks, this is supposed to be the finest example of evolution in action. Creationists are unimpressed. Throughout their ordeal, the peppered moths have remained peppered moths. They have not changed into something else. This is an excellent example of the environment affecting the gene frequency of the two varieties, but where is the evolution?

**Archaeopteryx**, the primordial bird, was supposed to show the transition from a reptile to a bird. This fossil bird with a bony skeleton and claws on the ends of the wings was scarcely distinguishable, if at all, from the reptilian dinosaur Compsognathus. But Archaeopteryx possessed an extensive coating of feathers whose impressons in the rock are remarkably perfect in a specimen discovered in 1861, two years after publication of Charles Darwin's **Origin of Species**, and another in 1877.

Thomas Henry Huxley, Dar-win's champion, had predicted that just such a creature must have existed and had prophetically des-cribed its details. Huxley drew a sketch of a hypothetical primordial bird. It was a feathered creature with reptilian teeth, claws on the ends of the wings, scales on its body, and a long, lizard-like tail.

Fred Hoyle and Chandra Wickramasinghe, prominent British scientists, had always thought of this fossil as rather strange but moved to check it out upon reading the comments of a colleague (Dr. Lee M. Spetner of Israel) who wrote, *“For several years I have had a strong suspicion that the Archaeopteryx fossil is not genuine . . . I suspect that the (1861 and 1877) fossils were fabricated by starting with a genuine fossil of a flying reptile and altering it to make it appear as if it originally had feathers.”*

Fred Hoyle and Chandra Wick-ramasinghe have made a strong case for fossil forgery in their book **Archaeopteryx, The Primordial Bird**. This reviewer of the book was convinced.

Taking the fossil at face value, the fossil was a complete bird, not half reptile and half bird. It had feathers and flew. There are birds today that have the reptilian features of teeth with claws on their wings.

Most recently, a similar fossil was discovered in China. But close examination by reputable scientists has found it to be fraudulent.

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