
SPOKANE CHAPTER

REASONS TO BELIEVE

JUNE 2009 NEWSLETTER

In Memoriam: Frank Taylor



Many of our regular attenders were saddened by the death on May 5 of a stalwart and founding member of the Spokane chapter of Reasons to Believe, Frank Taylor.

Frank had suffered since 1996 from a pulmonary disease, interstitial fibrosis that eventually required a lung transplant. The transplant took place in June of 2007, and Frank had a difficult time immediately afterward. When he eventually recovered, he looked better than we'd ever seen him.

However, rejection issues began to take their toll. Frank eventually developed a stubborn lung infection, which took his life a few weeks ago.

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Chapter Meeting and Solar Observing Party: Sunday June 21, 5pm (Note Time!)

We invite you to attend a special monthly meeting this June. We'll meet for a meal at Coy Fullen's house. We'll also have a chance to view the sun through Coy's telescope, with a special filter. Come look for sunspots and solar ejections! **PLEASE – RSVP to Coy, so he can plan! Call him at 276-6388.**

Date: Sunday, June 21

Time: 5pm

Host: Coy Fullen

Location: 24006 N Rose Meadow Ln
Colbert, WA

Phone: 276-6388

Directions: From Spokane, go north on Hwy 395 (stay left at the Y). Go about 9.5 miles, and watch for Half Moon Road. The next street will be Wild Rose Rd. Turn left. Watch for Rose Meadow Lane on the right. Coy's house is the first on the right.

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Dinosaur-Bird Link Broken

By Cathy Bakken

While many researchers aren't quite willing to totally rule out the link between dinosaurs and birds, the language used by scientists at Oregon State University is pretty strong: It is unlikely that birds descended from any known theropod (bipedal, 'bird-hipped') dinosaurs.

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Dinosaur Bird Link Broken... Continued

The Oregon State University scientists had been studying a basic question – how do birds breathe? And how do they manage to have the huge lung capacity to support flight?

It's been known for decades that the thigh bone in birds is largely fixed and makes birds into "knee runners," unlike virtually all other land animals. What was just discovered, however, is that it's this fixed position of bird bones and musculature that keeps their air-sac lung from collapsing when the bird inhales.

Warm-blooded birds need about 20 times more oxygen than cold-blooded reptiles, and have evolved a unique lung structure that allows for a high rate of gas exchange and high activity level. Their unusual thigh complex is what helps support the lung and prevent its collapse.

"This is fundamental to bird physiology," said Devon Quick, an OSU instructor of zoology who completed this work as part of her doctoral studies. "It's really strange that no one realized this before. The position of the thigh bone and muscles in birds is critical to their lung function, which in turn is what gives them enough lung capacity for flight."

However, every other animal that has walked on land, the scientists said, has a moveable thigh bone that is involved in their motion – including humans, elephants, dogs, lizards and – in the ancient past – dinosaurs.

The implication, the researchers said, is that birds almost certainly did not descend from theropod dinosaurs, such as tyrannosaurus or allosaurus.

A Growing Body of Evidence

The findings add to a growing body of evidence in the past two decades that challenge some of the most widely-held beliefs about animal evolution.

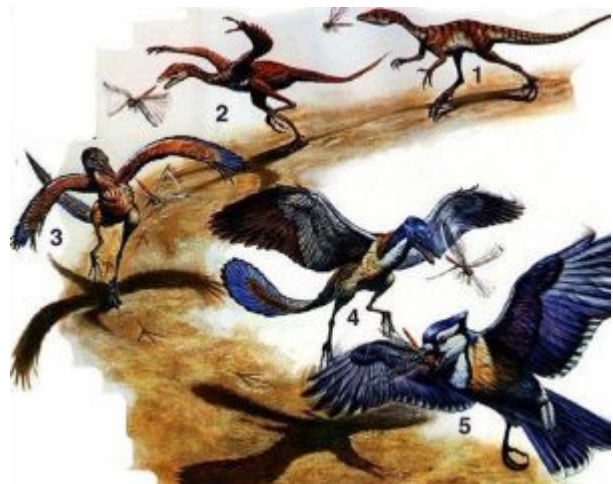
"For one thing, birds are found earlier in the fossil record than the dinosaurs they are supposed to have descended from," Ruben said. "That's a pretty serious problem, and there are other inconsistencies with the bird-from-dinosaur theories.

"But one of the primary reasons many scientists kept pointing to birds as having descended from dinosaurs was similarities in their lungs," Ruben said. "However, theropod dinosaurs had a moving femur and therefore could not have had a lung that worked like that in birds. Their abdominal air sac, if they had one, would have collapsed. That undercuts a critical piece of supporting evidence for the dinosaur-bird link.

"A velociraptor did not just sprout feathers at some point and fly off into the sunset," Ruben said.

OSU: Challenging the Status Quo

OSU research on avian biology and physiology was among the first in the nation to begin calling into question the dinosaur-bird link since the 1990s. Other findings have been made since then, at OSU and other institutions, which also raise doubts. But old theories die hard, Ruben said, especially when it comes to some of the most distinctive and romanticized animal species in world history.



An imagined view of how dinosaurs evolved into birds. OSU researchers have disproved this hypothesis.

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In Memoriam: Frank Taylor

Frank had not been able to work for a number of years due to his health, but he was an avid wildlife artist when he had the energy.

Frank firmly believed in the mission of Reasons To Believe. He became an apologist for the organization, after completing a training course, and regularly answered questions from all kinds of people who phoned RTB's hotline. Frank would have loved to do a lot more to spread the useful information from RTB and apologetics in general.

We would like to honor Frank's memory, and we look forward to seeing him in heaven, where he will be able to serve God to his full capacity.

Dinosaur Bird Link Broken... Continued

So the next time you watch a TV show or movie that touts the relationship between birds and dinosaurs, remember that the science just doesn't support that link.

END

Original Article:

Quick et al. Cardio-pulmonary anatomy in theropod dinosaurs: Implications from extant archosaurs. *Journal of Morphology*, 20 May, 2009.

Resource:

Visit [reasons.org](http://www.reasons.org), and go to "Topics", then "Evolution" to find an article on the problems with birds for evolutionist researchers.

<http://www.reasons.org/evolution/evolutionary-trees/birds-terrorize-evolutionary-biologists>

Another Atheist Converts

Believer-turned-atheist A.N. Wilson, a friend of best-selling atheists Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens, made the stunning announcement that he has now returned to faith by becoming a follower of Jesus.

Wilson is British, and originally aimed to become a minister in the Church of England. Wilson wrote books such as *Against Religion*, *God's Funeral: the Decline of Faith in Western Civilization* (1999), and critical biographies of Jesus and C.S. Lewis.

Why has Wilson now abandoned atheism to become a Christian? He concluded that "materialist 'explanations' for our mysterious human existence simply won't do – on an intellectual level."

Read his story at

<http://www.newstatesman.com/religion/2009/04/conversion-experience-atheism>

Who We Are and What We Do: Your Local Reasons To Believe Chapter

We're here to answer your questions and help local Christians and churches get more answers about science and the bible issues.

- * We offer trained apologists and bring in national speakers to speak at local churches and other events to share these exciting discoveries.
- * We help Christians overcome their fear of science and equip them to use it as an effective tool in spreading the Gospel.
- * We reach out to skeptics and non-believers with gentleness and respect, encouraging them to evaluate their worldviews.

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