# “Transitional” Fossils are Just God’s Created Kinds

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The theory of macroevolution revolves around small changes happening to organisms that, over time, change them fundamentally into a new species. However, the fossil record has very few species that appear to bridge a gap between two species. Therefore, the ones that do are publicized and taught to be “transitional forms,” basically gap-bridging species. This essay is intended to prove that transitional forms are false, and that they are just a part of God’s created kinds.

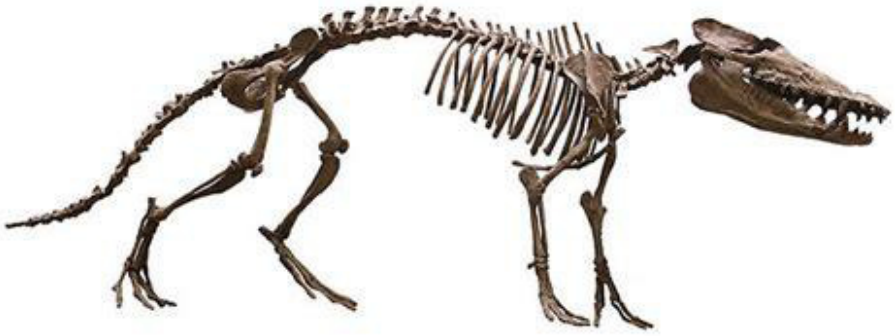
*Archaeopteryx* is highly regarded as an evolutionary transitional form from dinosaurs to birds. However, there are some problems with this theory. I will first look at the characteristics of a bird vs. the characteristics of a reptile. The structure of *Archaeopteryx*’s hip bones are not ornithischian in any way, shape or form[1]. The bones of the pelvis are in the manner of a bird’s pelvis, not an ornithischian or saurischian pelvis, like the dinosaurs *Archaeopteryx* is supposed to have evolved from. There is also a structure in the brain of many birds called a wulst. It is part of the visual area of the avian brain. This structure is possessed by *Archaeopteryx*.[2] The lungs of a bird have a distinct structure characterized by air sacs, as opposed to the reptilian lung, which has the

general structure of the average lung.[3] *Archaeopteryx* has the lungs of a bird. Finally, *Archaeopteryx* has bones that are somewhat hollowed out like a bird's bones (for efficiency in flight).[4] Dinosaurs, including the saurischians expected to be the evolutionary fathers of birds, do not have hollowed-out bones but have solid bones to provide structure. Therefore structural homology cannot explain the idea that *Archaeopteryx* is a dino-bird.

I will also look at impassable gorges between the characteristics of dinosaurs and birds that make it impossible for *Archaeopteryx* to be a dino-bird. These two things are warm vs. cold blood and scales vs. feathers. Warm-blooded animals rely on their own body heat for warmth, whereas cold-blooded animals rely on heat from the environment, be it the sun, hot springs, or a similar source. If an organism were to switch from warm-blooded to cold-blooded, it would take an extreme amount of mutation or change in the DNA of the organism, and it would be impossible for it to have been a product of small changes over time. This goes against evolution, and shows that, without significant changes by an outside source, it is nearly impossible for this feature to have evolved. The other problem is scales vs. feathers. Scales are a hard, leathery covering that are for protection and for covering, like skin. Feathers, on the other hand, are for warmth, some protection, and for wing area during flight. The structure is of barbed hairs meant to interlock with each other, as opposed to scales, which are part of the skin. How could something that is a part of the skin[5,6] of a flightless organism evolve into something separate from the skin that is an extremely important part of flight and has a structure like that of a feather? It just is not possible.

There is one more thing to look at in studying *Archaeopteryx*: its claws. The only other bird with clawed wings is the Hoatzin chick, which sheds them when it is mature. It uses them to climb back up into the tree its nest is in after falling out. *Archaeopteryx*'s wing claws are used as a piece of evidence against its being a bird. However, the foot claws are structured in a way that is used for climbing.[7] This shows that it is quite possible for *Archaeopteryx* to have been a tree-living bird, and the claws were for re-entering the tree after gliding or falling out to catch prey.

The second transitional form in this essay is *Pakicetus. Pakicetus* is an evolutionary mainstay for the father of cephalopod evolution. However, this is flawed, as it is classified as a terrestrial cetacean, though all cetaceans are ocean-dwellers. *Pakicetus* had eyes and ears on the top of its skull, which seems to communicate a semi-aquatic nature. J.G.M. Thewissen wrote that it was "no more amphibious than a tapir.[8]" Even if it were semi-aquatic, why should it be a terrestrial cetacean? "The title of the article calls it a 'terrestrial cetacean,' which translated means 'land whale' or 'land dolphin' or 'land porpoise'." says Dr. Terry Mortenson from Answers in Genesis.[9] In the same article he also describes how, with only head bones, the discoverer of *Pakicetus* drew the remainder of the animal, and also



assumed its diet![10] This shows an evolutionary bias which discredits much of the attention towards *Pakicetus*' being a "terrestrial cetacean," which is already an untrue claim. *Pakicetus* was not a cetacean, but a land mammal meant for living on land, not just a cetacean meant for land.

Genesis 1:21 says, "So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good."[11] And in Genesis 1:25, it reads, "And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good."[12] God did not say that He created great sea creatures of the land! He created land and sea animals - no land-based cetaceans. Pakicetus did not evolve into or out of the water.

The last transitional form in this essay is *Tiktaalik*. *Tiktaalik* is supposed to be an evolutionary transitional form from fish to land-based tetrapods based on its fins and strengthened ribcage, which are allegedly made for walking on land. However, there are some problems with this theory. First of all, *Tiktaalik* has lobe fins,[13] very similar to the coelacanth. Coelacanths have been found living, and scientists would expect them to walk to a certain extent, having the lobe fins. However, coelacanths have never been observed walking - even underwater![14] This takes away a lot of credit for *Tiktaalik's* alleged ability to walk out of water like a tetrapod. Secondly, there are other fish that can walk out of water and breathe with lungs - mudfish and mudskippers, for example.[15,16]

They, however, have never been assumed to be part of tetrapod evolution. Third and last, *Tiktaalik's* fin bones are dermal bones.[17] They would not have enough structure to allow *Tiktaalik* to walk on land like a tetrapod. The idea that they were used for walking in a tetrapodian fashion is unfounded. This shows that *Tiktaalik* was not a fish meant for land, but a fish meant for water.

These evolutionary "transitional forms" are not transitional forms. They are just animals created by God, but the evolutionary bias by all the scientists who discovered these creatures has turned them into evolutionary "proof." God created these species without evolution - they were created in their kinds. According to Genesis 1:21, 25: "So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good."[18] "And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good."[19] No transitional forms were needed to create all the organisms on this earth today.

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