



DINOSAURS turning into birds and how did they get so big and what happened to them and what is the evidence they were created? All this and more in Evidence News 16/14 with EDitorial COMment from the Creation Research Team around the globe. And don't miss the UK debate against Dr Patrick Richmond PhD in cell physiology from Oxford, details below.

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1. NEW QUESTION: FEATHERED DINOSAURS? What does it take to convince you guys? Surely the latest find of a feathered dinosaur *Kulindadromeus zabaikalicus*, is enough to convince any intelligent researcher that dinosaurs evolved into birds? What's stopping you? Is it just your religious bigotry?" [ANSWER](#) by Dr Andrew McHutchon.

2. DEBATE! DON'T MISS IT: Dr Patrick Richmond PhD (DPhil) in cell physiology Oxford vs John Mackay, October 31st in NORWICH for details see our full itinerary [here](#). UK DONATIONS Gift Aid Form [click](#).

3. CHECK OUR LATEST [CREATION NEWS ONLINE](#).

4. CHECK OUT CANADIAN CREATION RESEARCH MUSEUM'S LATEST living fossil find [report](#) from Martin Legemaate.

5. SPINOSAURUS WAS A SWIMMER, claim scientists, according to reports in ABC News in Science 12 September 2014, BBC News, ScienceDaily and *Science* doi: 10.1126/science.1258750, 11 September 2014. Spinosaurus is a long, low-slung dinosaur with a large sail-like structure projecting from it back. It grew up to 15 metres long, and is

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usually portrayed as a ferocious predator that could win even against *T. rex*. It was first identified from specimens found in Egypt over a century ago, but the original fossils were destroyed in World War 2. Now some more fossils of the creature have been found in Morocco, and an international team of scientists has made a detailed study of these, and along with the archival records of the original, they have come to the conclusion that Spinosaurus was a semi-aquatic creature that terrorised sharks and large fish, rather than *T. rex*. They describe their findings in an article entitled "Semiaquatic adaptations in a giant predatory dinosaur". Spinosaurus seems to be well suited for swimming in that it has a long neck and body with powerful front legs and short hind legs. These features would shift its centre of gravity forward, making it awkward for walking on land. It also had loosely connected bones in the tail, enabling wave-like sideways movement, as occurs in crocodiles, and dense limb bones that would help with controlling buoyancy, similar to those in semiaquatic creatures like penguins and hippos. Its feet were broad with long flat claws, which would be an advantage for walking on muddy surfaces. Its nostrils were located back on the head, enabling it to breathe with its head partly submerged. Its snout also had a number of small holes, similar to those in crocodiles, where they convey nerve endings for pressure sensors, that tell the animal about movement of the water surface. Its teeth were large and conical, and interlocked at the front, making them well suited for catching and holding onto slippery fish. Although the region where the new fossils were found is now a desert, scientists believe it once was a huge river system extending from Morocco to Egypt. According to the ABC: "The area was once home to an extensive river system, where coelacanths the size of cars lived alongside seven metre long sawfish, and three metre long lungfish. Freshwater sharks and crocodile-like predators, some as long as a bus, also lived in the river system". The ScienceDaily report adds that fossil flying reptiles were found at the site as well. A separate report on these fossil beds includes the finding of bird fossils as well. (See Ibrahim N, *et. al.*, Dinosaur Footprints and Other Ichnofauna from the Cretaceous Kem Kem Beds of Morocco. PLoS ONE 9(3): e90751. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.009075.)

Links: [ABC](#), [BBC](#), [ScienceDaily](#)

ED. COM. Let us first note that finding the mixed fossils of bus-sized crocodiles and car-sized fish (both salt and fresh water), along with flying reptiles, is really evidence of catastrophic burial of creatures from different environments river, air and sea, as would have occurred in Noah's flood, rather than in a peaceful river system. We cannot trace any full list of fossils from this site yet but suspect it would also contain fossil trees and other land based life forms. Secondly note that all these features found on the dinosaur skeletons 'might' make Spinosaurus suitable for a semi-aquatic lifestyle, but the bulk of their claim seems to result from finding the monster mixed with fish. Calling the dinosaur's adaptations is also misleading, because it implies this creature was once a land dwelling creature that changed into a semiaquatic creature. Given the scarcity of full Spinosaurus skeletons there is little evidence for this. The fact that Spinosaurus was large with big teeth does not make it a ferocious predator. Genesis tells us that all animals in the original very good world were vegetarian. We know that present day crocodiles and alligators can and do eat fruit, and in the original very good world there would have been plenty of good nutritious fruit and other plants for all animals to eat. (See our report Croc Fruit Eaters, Evidence News 7 August 2013 [here](#).) The evidence of other giants, yet still living creatures found alongside Spinosaurus remind us that the world was once a much better place, with ecosystems that could support enormous fish as well as the now extinct giant flying reptiles - a picture painted in Genesis of an original created good world, where creatures such as sawfish and lungfish were meant to reproduce their own kind, and obviously have. (Ref. dinosaurs, reptile, aquatic)

6. MEGASAURUS DREADNOUGHT found as described in Scientific American and ScienceShots 4 September 2014, and ABC News 5 September 2014 and *Scientific Reports* doi: 10.1038/srep06196 4 September 2014.

Palaeontologists have studied the fossils of a truly gigantic dinosaur found in the Argentina and have given it the name *Dreadnoughtus schrani*. Matt Lamanna of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, explained the name: "We decided on Dreadnoughtus, meaning 'fearer of nothing', because when you're as big as this thing was, you're probably not afraid of too much". The researchers estimate the animal was 26 meters (85 ft) long and weighed about 59 metric tons. According to ScienceShots this makes it "twice as long as *Tyrannosaurus rex* and as heavy as a herd of elephants". The dinosaur was a long necked sauropod, similar to Diplodocus and Brachiosaurus. Two partial skeletons were found, one slightly larger than the other. After studying the microscopic structure of the bones the scientists concluded that the larger one was still growing when it died. The fossils were found in Cerro Fortaleza Formation, approximately 350m below the top of the formation, and are dated as Late Cretaceous, between 84 and 66 million years old. Kenneth Lacovara of Drexel University in Philadelphia explained: "It appears that both individuals died and were buried rapidly after a river flooded and broke through its natural levee, turning the ground into a soupy mixture of sand, mud and water".

Links: [ABC](#), [Scientific American](#), [ScienceShots](#)

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ED. COM. Wow! Twenty six metres long (85') and still growing. This sound preposterous, but we know that many modern reptiles can keep growing throughout their lives provided they live in a good climate, with good food, and are not ill or stressed. Therefore, if Dreadnoughtus lived in such good conditions for a long time they could grow very large. Those were the conditions that would have existed in the original very good world God made. We are also told that before Noah's flood human beings lived very long lifespans, so it is feasible that animals had equally long lives, which would mean that any animals capable of continuous growth, even at a slow rate, could reach enormous sizes if they lived 'as long as Methuselah', 969 years. It is possible that this dinosaur is not only the biggest, but also the oldest. We agree with the researchers that these dinosaurs were rapidly buried, but it would take more than a river bursting its banks to both drown and bury 26 metre long monsters. A much larger, far more catastrophic flood is required for that. Furthermore, other enormous dinosaurs, such as Titanosaurs and Argentinosaurus are also found in Argentina. A flood the size of Noah's is much better explanation for these dinosaur fossils in Argentina. Note also the biggest Blue Whale is 27 metres long, so blue whales still are the biggest creature. (Ref. dinosaurs, catastrophe, growth, giants)

7. DINOSAUR QUESTIONS GALORE [here](#).

8. FIRST DINO FOR VENEZUELA, reports ScienceShots 5 August 2014 and Royal Society News 6 August 2014, and *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* doi: 10.1098/rspb.2014.1147. A team of European and US scientists have studied a small dinosaur named *Laquintasaura venezuelae* found in the La Quinta Formation of the Venezuelan Andes mountains. This region is described as "an area sometimes thought to be devoid of early dinosaur taxa". The dinosaur was similar in size to a small dog, and is thought to be a plant eater. It is a member of the ornithischian, or 'bird hipped' dinosaurs which include the better known Stegosaurus and Triceratops, which are believed to have evolved later in the evolutionary timetable than saurischians, or 'lizard-hipped' dinosaurs. The new dinosaur is dated as early Jurassic, about 200 million years old. According to ScienceShots, "Very few early ornithischians are known, so the new Venezuelan species may provide important clues about early dino evolution". The other significant finding is that at least four individuals were found together, and the scientists suggest this means the dinosaurs lived in herds, a behaviour that is not believed to have evolved until 40 million years later in the late Jurassic. Paul Barrett of the Natural History Museum, London, who led the study, commented: "It is fascinating and unexpected to see they lived in herds, something we have little evidence of so far in dinosaurs from this time".

Links: [Royal Society](#), [ScienceShots](#)

ED. COM. Wondering about the terms saurischian and ornithischian? Dinosaurs are classified into two major groups according to the shape of their pelvis, whether its pelvis is more like that of the living reptile or the modern bird. Saurischian, or 'lizard-hipped' dinosaurs have a pelvis with the pubis (the front part) sloping forward. In ornithischians (bird hipped) the pubis slopes backwards in parallel with the ischium, the back of the pelvis. Finding this bird-hipped dinosaur is no help to understanding dinosaur evolution because it is already a fully formed bird-hipped dinosaur. In fact, all dinosaurs so far found fall neatly into one category or the other, so there is no evidence for the evolutionary belief that bird hipped dinosaurs evolved from lizard hipped dinosaurs. The hips also expose one more weakness with the dino to bird theory since dinosaurs that supposedly grew feathers and turned into birds are lizard-hipped Theropods, not bird hipped saurians at all. Furthermore, it is not nit picking to point out that it is quite possible that *Laquintasaura venezuelae* did live in herds, but finding four individuals buried together does not prove such claims. As we have said many times, when you find fossil creatures in the same deposit that does not even mean they lived together. It only proves they were buried together. (Ref. dinosaurs, reptiles, South America)

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10. PELICAN-OSAURUS FOUND, according to ScienceShots and National Geographic News 11 September 2014, and *Scientific Reports* doi:10.1038/srep06329. Two specimens of a previously unknown pterosaur have been unearthed from the Jiufotang Formation of northeast China. The new pterosaurs have been given the scientific name *Ikrandraco avatar* after a flying creature named Ikran in the science fiction movie *Avatar*. Draco is Latin for dragon. They are dated as early Cretaceous – around 120 million years old. The creatures were about 75 cm (30 in) long, with a skull approximately 28 cm (10.5 in) long, and had 40 pairs of small teeth. Its lower jaw is unusual for a pterosaur in that it has a 13 cm (5 in) long crest projecting from it. The crest has a hook at the end and the scientists suggested it could have supported a throat pouch similar to that of a pelican. The research team also suggested it trawled for fish by flying low over water and skimming the surface. They wrote: "The particular skull shape hints at a distinct feeding habit for pterosaurs that potentially includes temporary skimming and an extensible skin acting as a throat pouch that

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was more developed than in any other pterosaur known so far”. Other pterosaur experts are not convinced, as trawling this way would involve flying perilously close to the water surface and would slow it down. Mark Witton, a pterosaur expert at University of Portsmouth in England commented: “The proposed feeding strategy sounds unlikely and bizarre to me”. He went on to say “Modern animals show us that flying relatively low over the water to catch prey is a successful ecological strategy, but they do this without any bizarre crest trawling”. Links: [National Geographic](#), [ScienceShots](#)

ED. COM. Isn't it amazing what a large story can be made from such small evidence? The actual fossil found was one bony crest with a hook on it. The 'pelican pouch and skim feeding behaviour' are all speculation. As with all fossil finds it is important to keep in mind what was actually discovered vs what stories are told about it. There is always a large leap of faith between dead bones and living behaviour, especially when there are no live examples to study. The name given to this dinosaur reminds us that until Richard Owen invented the word 'dinosaur' in 1841 these creatures were called dragons, even by Owen himself. The Chinese still refer to them as dragons, and several recently discovered dinosaurs have the Chinese word for dragon, *long*, incorporated into their names, e.g. *Guanlong wucaii*, a dinosaur featured at our Jurassic Ark site. It is interesting to see this trend continuing in another language. (Ref. pterosaurs, reptiles)

11. FROM THE ARCHIVES: [Argentine Dinosaurs](#), [Adaptation](#), [Owen and Dragons](#), [Dinosaur Growth](#), [Fruit Eating Crocodiles](#).

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