



God's Creatures

The wonders of God's creation never cease! The plant and animal kingdom alone is limitless in its storehouse of amazing stories. How sad that many people have been drawn into evolution's snare of seeing an enchanted forest without stopping to look at any of the trees. Sometimes the theories sound very convincing, but when we examine them closely, they begin to unravel. Let's take a close look at some remarkable instances that pose a real threat to the theory of evolution. Four such instances are **mimicry**,

mutualism, **migration**, and **convergence**.

MIMICRY One of the most remarkable wonders of the animal kingdom as well as the plant kingdom is that of mimicry. That is, the protection which a plant or animal receives because it either looks like or behaves like another plant or animal. Consider just a few of the many, many examples available. The wings of the geometrid moth perfectly resemble small twigs. When they land on a branch, they hold their abdomen at the same angle as other branches, making them totally invisible and safe from predators. Another moth in South America resembles a snake. The viceroy butterfly tastes great to its predators, but to save its "skin" it so closely resembles the foul-tasting monarch that its enemies leave it alone. A hungry fly-eating African plant looks, smells and feels like rotten meat so much that flies are attracted to it and even lay their eggs in it. One type of spider successfully invades ant colonies by disguising itself to look like a fellow ant. This is a rather difficult challenge since spiders have eight legs and ants only six. The spider simply lifts its two front legs to resemble the ant's antennae. The cuckoo of Europe and the cowbird of the United States lay their eggs in the nests of other birds without raising the slightest suspicion. When they hatch, these foreign baby birds crowd the rightful babies out of the nest because they are bigger. To these animals mimicry comes easy because that's the way they were created!(9)

MUTUALISM Mutualism, or **SYMBIOSIS** is the fact that some forms of life are dependent upon others for their very existence. In other words, some animals need to live in or on others to stay alive. Perhaps the best example is the termite. Although not a favorite of most, termites are rather interesting creatures. Knowing their unusual diet, would you be surprised to learn that termites can NOT digest wood? If they had to do so they would have died out long ago with chronic stomachaches. Wood contains a very high level of cellulose, which cannot be digested. However, a tiny organism lives inside the termite's stomach which loves cellulose. The organism's problem is that it cannot stand oxygen, but the termite's intestines are relatively free of that gas. Consequently each depends on the other for survival. Separate the two and they die from stomach cramps and too much gas! Neither can exist apart from the other. How could the evolutionist believe that these two developed eons apart from their mutual friend?

Another such wonder is the yucca moth. This tiny creature collects yucca pollen and passes it around from plant to plant, all the while depositing its own eggs along with the pollen. When the plant produces seeds, the young larvae feed on them. Here again the plant needs the pollen; the moth needs a nesting place. Although they supposedly evolved during different plant and animal eras, they cannot exist without each other.

MIGRATION Migrating birds have been the object of scientific study for generations, and even today little is known about this amazing feat. It is commonly agreed that migration is

truly a wonder of the bird kingdom. The white-throated warbler leaves its young behind in Germany as it departs early to winter in Africa. Several weeks later the young join their parents in Africa, never having been there before. The golden plover migrates 8000 miles, the barn swallow 9000 miles, and the arctic tern 14,000 miles, many of the miles over open sea which gives them little sense of direction.⁽⁹⁾ Experiments have shown that the brains of these amazing little animals are able to recognize longitude and latitude as well as star direction. The evolutionist becomes hard pressed for answers when approached with the problem of migration, because migration is useless unless it is carried out perfectly. Any bird knows that unless they reach their goal they are doomed. Flying over only half an ocean doesn't do any bird much good. How then could this process have slowly evolved over millions of years of trial and error? Many, many species, such as bats, seals, whales, turtles, eels, and lemmings migrate, which further complicates the problem for the evolutionist.

CONVERGENCE Evolutionists believe that various organisms developed certain similar organs because the environment demanded it. This concept is known as convergence. The creationist argues that the chance of this being merely coincidence is impossible. Consider the sonar of the porpoise and the bat. Could both of these creatures have coincidentally developed identical systems while evolving at different times and places? What about the wing structures found in insects, mammals (bats), birds, and flying reptiles? Each of these supposedly developed at a different time on the evolutionary tree yet they all have the same remarkable structure. There are even cases of double convergence where more than one sophisticated organ is duplicated in completely different animals. To the Christian there remains a very simple explanation: God chose similar structures in several different instances. His creating ability is truly without any limits!

How could it be that such perfection in size, color, sound, number, length, shape, description, smell, travel, and mutual need have come about by chance when every aspect of migration, mimicry, mutualism and convergence convincingly proves a truly remarkable creation that is the product of a perfectly masterful Designer? Once again the best argument for creation is the creation itself. Let the earth tell the wonders of the Lord!

READING BETWEEN THE LINES

Discuss the following quotation by Malcolm Muggeridge:

"I myself am convinced that the theory of evolution, especially the extent to which it's been applied, will be one of the great jokes in the history books of the future." (24)

LET'S TALK

1. What does the God who created mutualism, mimicry, convergence, and migration tell us about His abilities? Give other examples of these four wonders.
2. Some birds simply get used to staying in one place after many years, such as the Canada goose. Does this disprove the theory of migration?

WORDS FROM THE CREATOR

1. How does Psalm 24:1 speak of mimicry, mutualism, migration and convergence?

2. What does Jeremiah prove in Jeremiah 32:17? _____

3. What does Psalm 104:24 explain about the wonders of God? _____

4. Read Job 38:39 to 39:30. Who alone knows the hidden ways of animals? _____

5. What must we confess with Nehemiah in chapter 9:6? _____

TOPICAL INSIGHTS

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