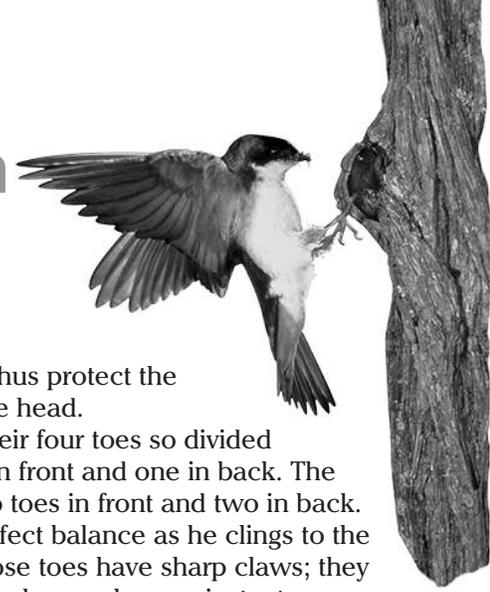


The Woodpecker

Excerpted from *Nature and Nature's God*

by Herman Schaars



The creation of a bird shows most beautifully the wisdom, the power, the love, and the majesty of our glorious Creator. For centuries man attempted to imitate the flight of a bird. It was only in the twentieth century that he actually succeeded. To this day, in order to improve the aerodynamics of the plane, man will return to study in detail the God-given power of a bird's flight.

In the service of man each species of bird has a special area of patrol. We think of birds as our helpers in the control of insect pests, in weed seed extermination, in checking rodent ravages.

The swallow, swift, and flycatchers patrol the air, catching insects in flight. The robin and the blackbird find the insect on the ground. The brown creeper and the nut hatch search the tree crevices. The warbler and the vireo glean the tree tops. The condor and the vulture remove the carcasses. The finch family is a great weed seed destroyer. The owl and the hawk keep the rodents in check. The sandpiper combs the beaches. The water bird maintains the proper balance in fish population; the heron in frog population.

The food of some birds is highly specialized. As the source of that food becomes limited, so do the numbers of that bird. The limpkin of the Florida Everglades and cypress swamps depends on a freshwater snail for food. The extinction of the limpkin is feared should this small snail become scarce. The ivory-billed woodpecker is now extinct. It fed on wood-boring grubs found in forests of the South. As these forests were thinned out, the ivory-billed woodpecker lost the source of his specialized food.

The woodpecker is most perfectly fitted to meet his way of life. Every detail of his anatomy is a marvel of creation. The woodpecker feeds on wood-boring insects. He must be able to chisel into the wood to get at these tree enemies.

The beak of a woodpecker is stout and chisel-pointed. It is a most effective tool for cutting into solid wood. The tongue is particularly wondrously created. It is long and cylindrical in form. The front end is sticky and barbed. When the grub is reached it must be hooked out. Without these barbs, how would the bird ever pull out that worm? The inside end of the tongue winds around the skull, around the eye, even passes the nasal opening to the very end of the beak. That enables the woodpecker to extend his tongue beyond the end of his beak far enough to reach even the deepest wood worm. How wisely the Creator did all this!

The head is powerful. It is equipped with a special shock absorber to cushion those hard blows against

the solid wood and thus protect the delicate organs of the head.

Most birds have their four toes so divided that there are three in front and one in back. The woodpecker has two toes in front and two in back. That makes for a perfect balance as he clings to the trunk of the tree. Those toes have sharp claws; they can really dig in when he perches against a tree.

The tail feathers are stiff; terminating in sharp spines. As the woodpecker gets in position to work these tail feathers are pressed against the bark and form a prop to aid in holding him in position while hammering away. The middle pair of the tail feathers are especially stiffened. It has been determined that this pair is able to support three times the weight of the bird. Do not these wonders constrain us to exclaim with St. John: *O Lord, Thou art worthy to receive glory and honor and power, for Thou hast created all things.* [Rev. 4:11]

The woodpecker is found all over the world.

They usually work in pairs. They may stay with a tree several days to complete the job.

Wherever there are forests, there are woodpeckers. Their value as insect destroyers is incalculable.

In western United States the Engelmann spruce beetle is a serious scourge.

The woodpecker has proved to be the most important beetle destroyer. They usually work in pairs. They may stay with a tree several days to complete the job.

For example, in a sample area tested by scientists, the average spruce tree had about 162 beetles per square foot. After woodpeckers had worked the tree slightly, the number was reduced to 90. Where they had dug in moderately, only 41 beetles were counted. But where they labored heavily, only 4 beetles remained—a reduction of 98%.

One woodpecker is known as the flicker. Whereas most woodpeckers are dominantly black and white, the flicker is usually brown-backed. The flicker is usually seen feeding on the ground, possibly on an ant hill on your lawn. Scratching the mound apart, he has brought the ants scurrying to the surface. As fast as they appear, they are taken in. After a single meal the stomach of a flicker contained five thousand ants.

Spread the fame of the woodpecker's economic value so that all may learn to appreciate more fully this feathered friend of ours. †

Note: See back page to order copies of Herman Schaars book *Nature and Nature's God*.

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Letters, comments and
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Recommended Books

SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH

by Bruce Malone

There is so much scientific evidence for creation, and Bruce Malone explains how to present it effectively. *Search for the Truth* will help readers share scientific facts.

Children continually receive false messages that they are here as a result of a gigantic explosion... that life formed over billions of years ago... that their lives are the result of random, chance process, evolution. With enough repetition, these dangerous lies can become facts in their minds.

If we do nothing to explain the scientific problems with the evolutionary worldview, we should not be surprised when children reach their teen years without any faith in a relevant God. Many will, by college age, totally turn their backs on God.

This book is designed to counter the indoctrination of evolutionary dogma by taking the offensive in an area where Christianity has been on the defensive for too long.

144 pages, paperback. Price: \$10 plus \$2 s/h. †

IMPRESSIVE DECEPTION: CREATION OR EVOLUTION – YOU DECIDE

by Dee Dee Briski

An excellent book that gives us an inside look at the deceptive portrayal of evolution by the media and public education.

Chapter 1 looks at the mainstream media's liberal agenda grounded in the belief of evolution. Chapter 2 examines Darwin's ideas and the time period that gave rise to his philosophy.

Chapters 3 & 4 look at public education, the increasing indoctrination of humanism, and the use of the twisted-version-of-reality film, *Inherit the Wind*.

Chapter 5 provides a definition of the evolution controversy, while chapters 6-8 highlight the evidence and flaws through probability, the age of the earth, and the fossil record.

Chapter 9 discusses the relevance of your decision.

Excellent book for ages high school to adult. 142 Pages, paperback. \$10 plus \$2 s/h. †

NATURE AND NATURE'S GOD

by Herman Schaars

Now available from CEA. An excerpt from the book appears on page 5 of this issue, and several other excerpts have been published here over the years. All of Schaars' writing helps us to understand, appreciate, and enjoy God's marvelous creation. He provides illuminating details about birds, animals, and everyday things in nature.

We are pleased to recommend *Nature and Nature's God* to parents, teachers and children. Teachers will find excellent material to share with students. Home school families will find good use for supplementary science and nature study.

This writer is honored to have known and worked with Herman Schaars in his later years. His words of encouragement served as an inspiration to soldier on, in some small way, the sharing of God's marvelous creation with others.

214 pages, paperback. \$12.50 plus \$2.50 s/h. †

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update

and God said, "Let there be Light."

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF CREATION EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

FALL-WINTER 2008

Upright Posture Extraordinary Hand Fertile Mind

By Gene Sattler

One of the most remarkable characteristics of the human body is its erect posture. The evolutionist has a real problem getting our four-legged "cousins" to get up and walk on two legs. Our ability to walk on two limbs, which we simply take for granted, is not the result of a four-legged animal acquiring small modifications of its anatomy and suddenly deciding to walk erect. The human upright stance is not a matter of small evolutionary changes. It is most certainly a product of intelligent design. Our ability to stand and walk upright is dependent upon the arrangement of a number of anatomical and physiological features in our bodies. Most of these are not found in any animal and include the very unique human foot, knees that lock, a specialized pelvis, powerful hip muscles, and sharply curved spine.

For evolutionists, the origin of bipedal features in humans remains a mystery. No family line can be drawn from apes or monkeys to men. Even so-called "fossil man" shows every indication of having had a similar upright and walking anatomy as "modern" man.

The major benefit of our upright mobility is that the hands are free to do the work of the mind. Our hands are free to explore and manipulate the world around us. Our ability to develop personally depends on our ability to give the sense of touch to our thoughts. The human body was designed to facilitate the development of personal contact, culture, applied reason, and aesthetic

construction. The entire world of culture, art, architecture, literature, theater, music, medicine and space travel is supported by a body that stands up and reaches out. Human life is more than hands catching rabbits or gathering fruit to eat.



Having an upright stance, a human being has the capability of combining several very important abilities that animals do not have. Man is endowed with a long attention span, wide-angle stereoscopic vision, and an exquisite hand with a truly opposable thumb. Of all creatures, it is only in man that there exists this powerful combination of visual skills, attentive abilities, and a talented hand.

These are all necessary for close-in, prolonged eye-hand coordination. With this ability we can pick up tiny pins, hold heavy tools, turn doorknobs, tie knots, paint pictures, operate computer keyboards, and play the piano and other instruments.

When we move our hands or wiggle our fingers there are twenty-seven small bones in each hand and wrist that slip and move together as a loose unit. The fifty-four bones of our two hands make up more than one-fourth of the two hundred and six bones in the entire body. Each wrist has eight bones that can slide a bit over each other. This gives the wrist flexibility for a wide variety of movements. The palm of our hand may look like one bone, but it is actually five fingerlike bones. The thumb base is set at an angle to the other four bones of the palm, so that the thumb can move toward the other fingers. The bones of the palm are loosely connected to increase the flexibility of our grip. Thirty muscles move the bones of each hand. It is interesting to note that the cortical areas of the human brain devoted to controlling these muscles are larger than the combined areas that control the chest and abdomen. Researchers have estimated that the human hand is capable of 58 distinct and precise movements. One of the

continued on page 2...



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reasons why human hands are so dexterous is that there are many joints and muscles in the hand and forearm. The 27 bones in each hand are joined together by a great number of ligaments. About 35 muscles control the movement of the hand. Eighteen off these are in the forearm and seventeen in the palm. Forces are transmitted to the fingers by a network of ligaments.

Our thumbs are the strongest finger we have.

Man's thumb, in contrast to the primates, is completely opposable, thanks to its length, shorter fingers, and the thumb's independent plane of movement, we have no difficulty touching each finger with our long thumb.

The ease with which this is possible makes our hands the finest grasping mechanism in living creatures. It is far superior to that of any of the primates. Sir Isaac Newton said that the thumb alone would be enough to convince him of the existence of a Creator. The uniqueness of the human thumb does indeed point to a Creator.

We become so accustomed to our hands simply doing what the brain "tells" them to do that we fail to realize they are a marvelously designed gift of the Creator. Evolutionists are at a complete loss to explain the why and how of the evolutionary progress that supposedly took place over long ages for the development of this unique part of human anatomy.

The part of the brain that controls muscular movements of the body is called the motor cortex. About one fourth of the motor cortex is devoted to controlling the muscles of the hands. But note that the hands are only a small part of the body. No other creatures have such a relatively large



Sir Isaac Newton said that the thumb alone would be enough to convince him of the existence of a Creator.

section of the brain dedicated to the control of hands.

Let us take a final look at the great ability of this gift of the Creator. Because of the strength and agility of the hand, man is able to perform numerous amazing activities. Together with the mind, man's hands can do writing, art, surgery, carpentry, sports, music, and thousands of other activities. Performing instrumental music is one area where the extraordinary control of the fingers is clearly apparent. Think of a pianist playing

Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata. The third movement is marked *presto agitato*, which means very fast.

Here is an example of the amazing speed of the fingers in performance. In one measure there are 27 notes which are played in about one and a half seconds. In each split second the pianist's fingers are placed in exactly the right place, with the right force and for the right length of time. The third movement has about 6,500 notes and takes about seven minutes to perform. During the seven minutes the pianist plays an average of 16 notes per second. We can see this same finger and hand agility in the playing of other musical instruments, be they brass, woodwinds, or strings. And all of this delicate finger action is under the control of man's brain.

The precise agility of the human hand is seen in many everyday activities such as tying shoelaces and the fastening of buttons. It is impossible for evolution to explain why such incredible levels of dexterity should exist in human hands. We can only exclaim with the Psalmist: *I will praise thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works: and that my soul knoweth right well.* [Ps. 139:14] †

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Our sincerest thanks to all who support CEA with their prayers and financial gifts. Please pray that we will continue to bring the message of His Word to all those who hunger for the truth †



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Standing in Reality

In the words of Albert Einstein, "Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind."

The argument that science must stay separate from religion deprives us from getting the whole story. The two work together. Humanists urge the public to believe that evolution is the scientific explanation for life and creation is the religious opinion. They refer to their religious philosophy as "science" because if they were to call it what it is, it would be harder to sell. For instance, change the word "scientific" to "religious" in the previous claim so that it reads: "...evolution is the religious explanation for life and creation is the religious opinion." A claim like this might make some say, "huh?" And those committed to evolution don't like when people say, "huh?" This could cause people to start thinking for themselves and that would not be good for their case. They would much rather we nod and say, "Oh, I see, you must be right...you are the scientists."

Attaching the word "science" to their belief and the word "religious" to creationists' belief is simply a way to keep the creation view out of the public eye. The deceit does nothing to benefit science. Both theories require an element of faith as well as science.

The fact that creationists are willing to see the connections between tangible evidence and the written Word of the Holy Bible does not disqualify its scientific value. Many highly respected scientists have made very valuable contributions to science due in large part to their faith in the accuracy of Scripture.

Evolution's problem with those who take the Bible at face value is that its Word does not support evolution. Whether scientists choose to reject the Word of the Bible or not is their own business. But when they choose to reject physical evidence because it happens to support the Bible and not their own beliefs, then it's all of our business. We have then become the recipients of evolutionists' religious beliefs, not of true science.

When we realize that this is happening, it's chilling to know that the general public has become the congregation that the ministers of humanism predicted for the public classrooms. This confession from *The Humanist* magazine, gives us a peek at the intentions of the humanist agenda:

"...teachers...will be ministers of another sort, utilizing a classroom instead of a pulpit to convey humanist values in whatever subject they teach, regardless of

the educational level – preschool, day care or large state university. The classroom must and will become an arena of conflict between the old and the new – the rotting corpse of Christianity, together with all its adjacent evils and misery, and the new faith of humanism."

Too much has been uncovered for evolution to continue to claim creationists are the religious zealots and evolutionists are the scientists. When we take the time to objectively look at some of the teachings and cover-ups of evolution, we should admit, at a bare minimum, that creationism ranks as a credible theory. Of course, I believe far more so than evolution, but I would not want the evolution faith to be silenced. I hope to see both

theories exposed and entrust the public to interpret the facts as the facts really are, instead of the humanists interpreting them for the public – as they do now.

The next time you see the cover of *Time* magazine or *USA Today* or *National Geographic* or any other media, trumpeting: "A

It is no coincidence that the increased acceptance of evolution comes simultaneously with the diluting of biblical values, thus resulting in the decrease of moral standards. With evolution, values are relative to the current culture while absolute truth disappears. I'm not sure it's possible to reconcile that with true Christian belief.

New 'Missing Link' in our Human Ancestry Proves Evolution!" how will you react? Will you jump on the monkey train, or will you step back and say, "Oh, is that so? Show me the proof." Will you assume that the very beginning of life has already been proven, so we can skip the questions about spontaneous generation, or will you decide that you deserve a real answer?

Can those who jump on the monkey train believe in evolution if they also believe in God? I've heard many Christians say, "Maybe God used evolution instead of instant creation." For some this seems to be the only conclusion that can reconcile the "stories" they've heard at church, with the so-called "scientific facts" they've heard from everywhere else. But can we be both an evolutionist and a Christian? Well, if God really did sit back and twiddle his thumbs for billions of years while slime reproduced itself and was destroyed over and over again, that would conflict with His word that there was no death or suffering before sin entered the world. And Christianity and Judaism teach that sin didn't enter the world until "man" sinned. If evolution was God's means for creation, much suffering and dying would have taken place before man and sin. That theory discredits scripture beginning in the first chapter of the Bible, triggering a subtle doubt in all that follows. Watering down God's

Word thereafter seems to be justified. So God becomes a matter of convenience. It is no coincidence that the increased acceptance of evolution comes simultaneously with the diluting of biblical values, thus resulting in the decrease of moral standards. With evolution, values are relative to the current culture while absolute truth disappears. I'm not sure it's possible to reconcile that with true Christian belief.

On The other hand, if the evidence convinces you as much as it does me that evolution is impossible, consider this: of all the religions in the entire world,

there are three that teach exclusively creationism. Knowledge of creation narrows religious faiths down to Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. But aside from belief in creation, these three religions have significant differences in other areas. Therefore, knowing that there is a Creator may not answer the whole truth about who God is and what is expected of us in order to go to heaven, but it is a giant leap toward knowing which religion holds the absolute truth.†

Thanks to Dee Dee Briski for the foregoing article from her book *Impressive Deception*, available from CEA.

Good morning, students

The debate over evolution vs. creation is not just a dry technical argument concerning isotopic dating methods, dinosaur bones, or even whether mutations can turn pond scum into people. What we believe about where we came from determines how we view life, and ultimately, our actions. Answers to such basic questions as “Where did we come from?” ... “What is the purpose of life?” ... and “How do we determine right from wrong?” are derived directly from our beliefs about our origin. If we are just the result of random chance changes that turned swamp gas into people, then life has no ultimate purpose or meaning. Each person must determine for themselves what is right or wrong... and any ultimate meaning and purpose for life really does not exist.

This is the essence of what is being taught to your children each day in public schools:

“Good morning students and welcome to high school. Our first lesson today will be to teach you where you came from. Many of you have been taught that God created you. However, that is a religious concept and must be reserved for Sunday mornings. You may keep that belief, if you wish, but we will now teach you more important things like science and reality.”

“You see, Johnny and Suzy, you are here as a result of cosmic accidents and random chance. Billions of years ago, “nothing” exploded and turned into gas molecules. These gas molecules bounced around until they became stars. The stars then changed simple atoms into bigger atoms. After lots and lots and lots of time passed, these larger atoms and molecules formed a big rock that we call Earth. Parts of this rock dissolved into water and came alive. After billions more years, little critters in the water climbed onto land and started walking around. Over time, birth defects happened (which we call mutations) and these critters turned into other kinds of critters. More often than not these critters

wiped out the previous critters. Finally apes turned into people. And here we are. We were not there to see any of this happen, and we cannot really prove how it could have happened, but we are absolutely sure this is what happened. That’s why we call this science. You see now Johnny and Suzy, why science and reality can teach you so much more than religion.”

“One more thing, Johnny, because you are just a cosmic accident, you really have no basis for judging other people. You must be tolerant. Homosexuality is just a choice. Abortion is just a choice. Sex with anyone or anything at anytime is just a choice (but please be careful.) Anything you choose to believe is OK as long as it is good for you. And you get

to define what is “good”! After all, you are really just a cosmic accident, and after a few more billion years the universe will collapse back into nothingness anyway.”

“That’s all the time we have for biology and history today. Now, it is time to go to your new class on self-esteem and good behavior where we will try to define good behavior for you. Have a good day, Suzy and Johnny, and be the best little well behaved accidents you can be”

Is it any wonder that lying and cheating are widespread in both schools and governments? Is it really surprising that despondent students resort to violence and suicide?

Let’s return to true education where students have the freedom to view the scientific evidence for creation. Then, they will once again have a factual basis for understanding that their lives have meaning and value, because they are made in the image of a personal Creator. Only then will morality have an immovable foundation – because it will be the reflection of that Creator.†

Thanks to Bruce Malone for the foregoing article from his book *Search For The Truth*, available from CEA.

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