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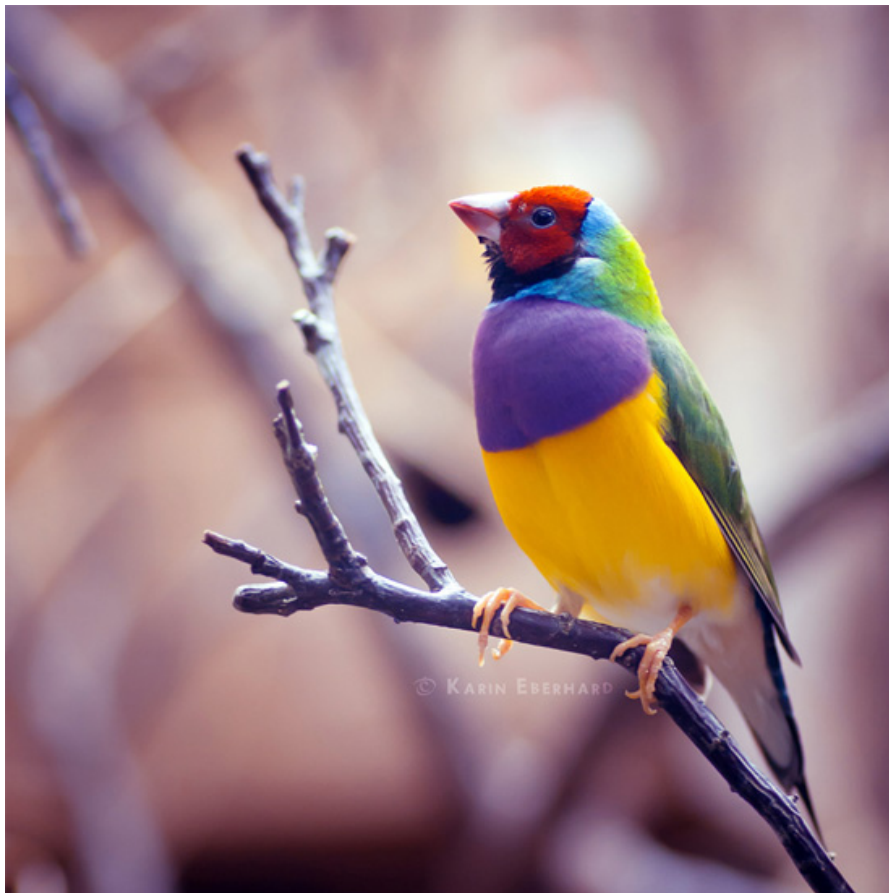
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Ask The Birds: How Nature's Flying Machines Point to The Creator



**“But ask the animals, and they will tell you, or ask the birds in the sky, and they will teach you ...**

**Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?”**

**Job 12: 7, 9**

Let's imagine together for a second. Close your eyes, and picture a warm summer evening in your backyard. Listening closely, you begin to hear a beautiful concoction of warbles and whistles ringing through the air, as though all of nature itself was eager to chime in on the melodious sonnet floating through the breeze. Directing your gaze upward, you catch a glimpse of a scarlet-colored Northern Cardinal gliding above, as if floating across the vast expanse of turquoise sky. Beautiful, isn't it? And yet, there are some who still wish to believe that these intricate, jaw-droppingly beautiful feathered creatures came into being by mere coincidence. As a student of the public school system, I have heard these implausible arguments many times over in my Biology class, with not even a reference to the idea of a Creator in explanation for the many fascinating designs of the known universe. I have often pondered on how to refute these atheistic arguments, and to prove once and for all that nature itself proclaims the existence and glory of God. A clear example of the glory of God that frequently comes to mind is that of the bird family. There are over 10,000 species of birds in the world; each and every one reveals the intricate mind of our Father and the marvelous work of his hands.



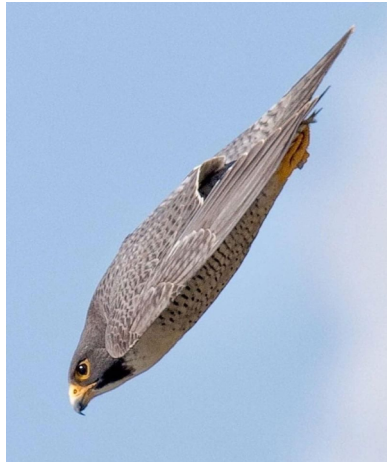
**Ruby Throated-Hummingbird**

The ruby-throated hummingbird is quite possibly one of the first birds that comes to mind when talking about God's magnificent creation, and rightfully so. This bird is a *masterpiece* of efficient design. The hummingbird is the smallest migrating bird, weighing only a little more than a nickel, and yet it often migrates distances of over 500 miles nonstop- all by itself! It is packed with unique features that clearly debunk the evolutionary theory of its origin. Although it is minuscule in size, its speed and swiftness are matched by no other in the animal kingdom. A hummingbird's wings can, astonishingly, beat up to 10-15 times *every second*! Additionally, its tongue moves in and out 13 times per second when feeding, helping them to consume nearly twice their body weight every day. These blindingly fast speeds are a clear indication of creation, as no possible adaptation in evolutionary theory could have led to such an awe-striking ability. Chalk up one point for the Creator!



**Painted Bunting**

Another lesser-known example of the beauty in God’s work is the painted bunting. Located primarily in the Southeastern United States, this endangered bird dons an array of brilliant colors. Its unique color scheme, characterized by vibrant, decorative hues of blue, green, and red is only found in males and is used to attract females. One cannot help but imagine the smile God might have had when designing the striking color scheme of this feathered canvas. As someone who has studied birds, I can truly say that I thoroughly enjoy viewing the Painted Bunting, and would consider this bird one of my own personal favorites. It was as if this bird’s primary role was to proclaim the existence and glory of God! How foolish it is to even begin to believe that such an awe-striking billboard of beauty could have come about by the result of millions of years of adaptation! “Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised..” (Psalm 48:1-2). Another point goes to the Lord of Hosts!



**Peregrine Falcon**

God's creativity is once again revealed in the fastest bird on the planet: the Peregrine Falcon. Diving at over speeds of 240 mph, this bird easily claims the title of the fastest creature in the animal world. Let's take a closer look at how the Creator equipped this aerodynamic marvel with the attributes it needs to achieve this speed. To start, its body is extremely streamlined, allowing it to slice through the air with its aerodynamic body. Next, it has a hollow but very large keel, which is a specialized bone for flight found within birds. Its large keel allows more muscle to be attached to it which in turn, generates more power for flying. Its stiff, pointed wings allow it to reduce the drag which helps generate thrust. Lastly, the peregrine falcon has very efficient respiratory and circulatory systems. Though they are often overlooked, these key systems are actually what gives these birds the ability to fly at top speed. The powerful respiratory system allows them to breathe effortlessly when flying at speeds over 200mph. In addition, their hearts can beat 600-900 times a minute. Can you believe that? Their incredible heart rate allows oxygen to pass through their lungs at extremely high rates so it does not tire

quickly. All this evidence points to the fact that we have one amazing Creator who is the ultimate designer. Score 3 for the Creator!



(Pileated) Woodpecker

The fourth aerodynamic wonder of the bird family we will examine is none other than the woodpecker. This engineering marvel by the Creator hammers yet another nail into the coffin of evolutionary theory when its design and characteristics are examined from a closer angle. These omnivorous architects and percussionists can be nominated as some of the animal kingdom's most hardworking animals, as they excavate to find their meals. Most people have seen or heard of woodpeckers, but very few know of the stunning design work behind them that allows them to find and eat insects on a daily basis. One such characteristic that they possess is that they have zygodactyl feet, meaning they have two toes facing forwards and two facing backwards that, coupled with a stiff tail, allow them to effectively cling onto trees without falling off. However, with possibly one of the most stunning design traits in the animal kingdom, these birds have a natural jackhammer for a head! They drill for insects deeply embedded within tree bark by first drumming on the bark to locate the prey, and then drill (pecking up to 20 times a second!) to

capture the prey. How, you might ask, does this bird not die from brain trauma after one pecking session? The answer lies within the very anatomy of the bird (see diagram above). The woodpecker has a four-inch barbed tongue that not only helps it to reach deep into tree cavities to capture prey, but also, when retracted, acts as a shock absorber that wraps around the bird's skull, shielding it from skull damage, so that its brain doesn't get blown out. This is indeed mindblowing (pun intended)! Only an omniscient mastermind could conceive such a cunning design. Yet another point on the board for the All-knowing Designer.



**Common Nightingale**

While this bird may not make an initial impression with its fairly standard design and bland color scheme, the second it opens its mouth to sing, you will be blown away. That's right. This bird, the common nightingale, is a beautiful singer. They are able to produce over 1000 distinct notes because the part of the brain responsible for creating sounds is far larger in the Nightingale than in other birds. Their song can be heard throughout the night and is characterized by a whistling crescendo of warbles, whistles, and tweets. Who is to now say that there is no God? That these magnificent singers somehow learned to sing by themselves? The harmonious melody of this bird is clearly an indication that there is truly a Creator.

When closely observing some of the world's most interesting birds and their characteristics, the only reaction that we can have in a heart of truthful openness is to praise God for his marvelous works. Truly, there is no one like Jehovah, and He is to be worshipped as such. We, as humans, can draw peace and comfort from seeing how God cares for the birds, as Jesus Himself tells us to "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?" (Matthew 6:26-27). Our God is a God of love. He cares for us. We know that His plans for us are the best possible for our lives. And if our God equips them with such physical beauty, useful tools, and melodious voices, we can be assured that He will care for us all the more, just as He has promised!

So next time someone tries to convince you that there is no God, or that all of creation evolved by random chance, tell them to take a look at the sky, and listen. Just ask the birds. They'll teach you!



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