

Pecking Holes Through Evolution

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Pecking Holes Through Evolution

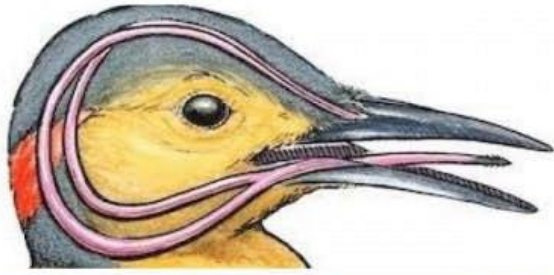
How many holes can a woodpecker peck through the theory of evolution? The woodpecker has several unique protective parts in its body that work together to refute this false theory. From head to toe, we can look at these different parts of the woodpecker and disprove evolutionists. The skull, the eyes, the tongue, the bill, and the feet all point to the Creator.

First, we can learn a lot from the woodpecker's head that makes evolution highly unlikely. A woodpecker can peck 190 times per minute. That's a little more than three pecks per second!

“And when they do, they can experience forces of 1,200 to 1,400 g's (g-force = the force of acceleration). In contrast, a force of 60-100 g's can give a human a concussion. The astonishing fact that a woodpecker can undergo fourteen times that without getting hurt has led helmet makers to model their designs on these birds' skulls.”¹

So, with all that movement and force, why doesn't the woodpecker get a headache every time it pecks? The woodpecker has several different mechanisms that help cushion its brain while it hammers the tree. Some kinds of woodpeckers have tongues that wrap around their brain and cushion it from concussions as it hammers. Also, the top and bottom of the woodpecker's bill are slightly different in size and solidness. The top part of the bill is longer and bends when it hits the tree. The bottom part of the bill hits the tree immediately after the top part. This two-part strike directs the impact down and away from the brain. Another factor that

¹ <https://www.fieldmuseum.org/blog/what-woodpecker-brains-can-tell-us-about-concussions>



https://creationism.org/heinze/woodpecker_en.htm

protects the woodpecker’s brain, is that the skull is also closer to the brain, leaving the brain little room to crash around inside the skull. In addition, the woodpecker’s brain is widest at the front, which stretches the brunt of the force over the largest area possible. All these facets work in tandem to absorb and redirect the impact, keeping the head safe while the woodpecker drills into holes with great amounts of force. If one of these mechanisms

wasn’t in place, would the woodpecker be able to survive the repeated blows to the brain? If some of these mechanisms were not there, it’s probable that the woodpecker would suffer too much brain damage from hitting the tree and it would not live through the evolutionary process.

Not only does the skull point to a creator, but the eyes do too. As mentioned earlier, a woodpecker may peck 190 times per minute, but each time it pecks, it closes its eyes for two reasons. Firstly, closing its eyes keeps them safe from flying wood chips. Secondly, because of the force with which it pecks, its eyes would pop out if it did not close its eyes. Evolutionists would say that this ability to rapidly open and close its eyes developed over millions of years. If that were true, if one mutation malfunctioned and the woodpecker was not able to open and close its eyes fast enough, it would be a blind woodpecker. That woodpecker would not survive the evolutionary process.

Along with the skull and the eyes, the tongue continues to challenge evolutionists’ thinking. A design engineering expert named Dr. Luther Sunderland found the skeleton of a woodpecker freshly dead one day in the woods. Here is his account:

“Small flexible bones exited from the woodpecker’s right nostril, circled around behind its head and neck, and went into its beak on the other side of its head.”²

This is unique to the woodpecker in that a normal bird’s tongue starts in the throat and comes out of the beak. Evolutionists say that the woodpecker evolved from another bird. How can that happen? How could a woodpecker evolve from a normal bird? Even if there was a fast evolutionary process that took about a month, the woodpecker would die of starvation before the normal bird’s tongue mutated all the way around the back of the head.

The woodpecker also has a built-in insect locator that can guide its tongue through the passageways in the tree. At the end of the woodpecker’s tongue are barbs that point backward and stab the insect and hold on to it as the tongue is pulled back into the mouth. The number of barbs and the different kinds of barbs differ from one species to another species. Some woodpeckers have glands that produce saliva that can stick onto some insects that cannot be stabbed. Other woodpeckers have tongues with hairs like brushes that can aid the bird in licking up sap. If any of these three components were missing, the insect locator, the barbs, or the special salivary glands, the woodpecker would be ill equipped to obtain its food.

² https://www.creationism.org/heinze/woodpecker_en.htm

The bill is another characteristic that is unexplainable to evolutionists. Men can make tools for cutting through trees, but with use the blade gets dull. It is not so with the woodpecker. God designed the woodpecker’s bill to be



self-sharpening! Is it a simple thing for a bill to be self-sharpening? If so, why haven’t men found a way to make their own tools self-sharpening? If men haven’t found a way yet, is it reasonable to say that it just randomly evolved out of nowhere? We must turn to the other solution: an intelligent creator and designer.

Another amazing FEATure of the woodpecker is its FEET, which defy gravity as it hangs on to the trunk of the tree. That is no small FEAT! Most birds’ feet have three toes pointing forward with the hallux (like



a human big toe) pointing backward. Woodpeckers, however, have three different ways of positioning its toes. Eight species of woodpecker have only three toes, excluding the hallux. This allows the woodpecker to increase the strength it uses to strike the tree. Another foot arrangement that some woodpeckers have is four toes which point roughly in an upward position. The hallux in this arrangement is long and has a claw at the end of the toe that helps with climbing and hanging on to the tree. The third arrangement has two toes pointing forward in a V-like shape and another toe pointing in a lateral direction. The hallux, unlike in the second

arrangement, is short and has little contribution in climbing or clinging to the tree. All three arrangements, even with their differences, defy gravity. Each of these toe positions support the woodpecker in a stable way while it pecks the tree to locate and procure its food supply. Tree climbers and hunters have different varieties of apparatuses for climbing trees. Is it reasonable to think that these devices randomly assembled themselves into working order? Of course, they didn't! Is it safe to assume these devices had a designer and builder? Of course, it is! It must therefore be safe to assume that the woodpecker and the woodpeckers' feet also had a designer and builder.

The woodpecker is a complex creature made of features so complex that if you took away one single element, the woodpecker would not be able to exist. Head and eyes, tongue to toes, the woodpecker pecks evolution full of holes.

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