

Birds Are Dinosaurs

The origin of birds is a controversial topic. Many scientists believe that birds and dinosaurs are closely related, but there are also some passionate objectors to this idea.

The theory that birds are descendants of dinosaurs began in the 1860s, with the discovery of a preserved dinosaur fossil that was covered in feathers. This led scientists to believe that birds descended from a group of bipedal dinosaurs that evolved during the Mesozoic Era. Some scientists speculate that not only are birds descended from dinosaurs, but they are actually a type of dinosaur. These scientists believe that birds are most closely related to theropod dinosaurs, a group that includes the well-known *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

There are several traits that tie dinosaurs and birds together. The first bird-like dinosaur found had features that looked like a cross between the scales of a dinosaur and the feathers of a bird. The animal had teeth like a reptile and a long bony tail. Its breastbone, on the other hand, looked like the "wishbone" of a bird. This helped to further demonstrate the similarities between this bird-like dinosaur and modern birds.



Since the 1990s, many more bird-like dinosaurs have been discovered in China. The age of some of these fossils shows that dinosaurs and birds coexisted, and a diligent study of these fossils has shown even more similarities between birds and dinosaurs.

Thanks to the new fossils from China, scientists can now see that theropod dinosaurs, which walked upright and had bird-like feet, also had lungs like modern birds. This evidence shows an even greater connection between theropods and modern birds.

The most recent evidence, however, comes from soft tissue found in the leg bone of a *Tyrannosaurus rex* fossil in Montana. The types of tissues that have been identified in the sample show a very close resemblance to modern bird tissue. There is ongoing research being done to further relate the DNA of dinosaurs and birds.

Not all scientists agree with this idea. Some believe that the theory that birds are dinosaurs is wrong. They see the similarities as irrelevant and insist that dinosaurs and birds evolved separately from each other. However, many feel that the evidence in support of the theory that birds evolved from dinosaurs is just too strong to ignore.

