

THE STRANGE HOATZIN

FRANK L. MARSH*

Shown here is a mature Hoatzin, an adult of the young bird shown on the cover. This bird, the *Opisthocomus hoazin*, inhabits northern South America. When full-grown, it is about the size of a medium turkey.

Of interest to creationists is the fact that it has certain features which are like those attributed to the extinct *Archaeopteryx*. This is especially true of the claws on the wings. Presence and use of the claws can be seen clearly in the picture on the cover.

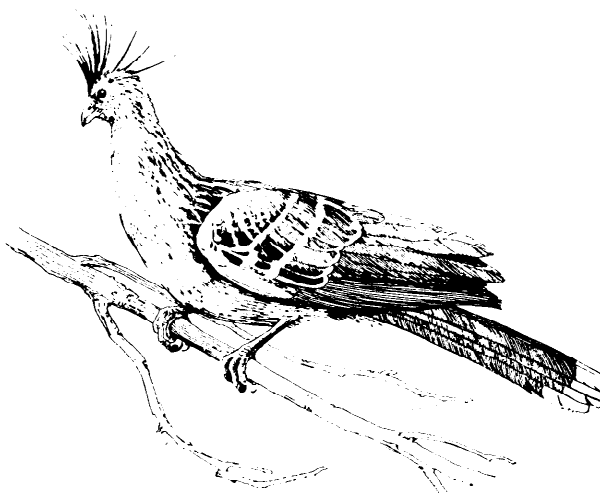
It is often maintained, on the basis of these claws, and some other features, that the *Archaeopteryx* was a transitional form, between reptiles and birds. But the living Hoatzin, which is clearly a bird, has similar wing structures.

Incidentally, is it not true that some bats have functional claws on their wings? Is any evolutionist going to claim that the *Archaeopteryx* was not a reptile on the way to becoming a bird, but rather a bird on the way to becoming a bat?

An article by Cousins deals with the similarities of the Hoatzin and the *Archaeopteryx* at greater length.¹ Also, an article in the *National Geographic Magazine*, some years ago, described the Hoatzin in its natural habitat.²

This picture of the mature Hoatzin is from

*Frank L. Marsh, Ph.D., is Professor Emeritus of Biology at Andrews University, and lives at 216 Hillcrest Drive, Berrien Springs, Michigan 49103.



Fundamentals of Ornithology by Josselyn Van Tyne and Andrew J. Berger, published in 1959 by John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, and is used here by permission of the publishers.

References

- ¹Cousins, Frank W. 1971. The alleged evolution of birds (in) Symposium on creation III. Edited by Donald W. Patten. Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, pp. 87-99.
- ²Grimmer, J. L., and M. W. Williams. 1962. Strange little world of the Hoatzin. *National Geographic Magazine*, 122 (3):391-400 (September).

GOD'S PERSONALITY REVEALED BY NATURE†

WILLIAM J. TINKLE*

It seems that, in nature, no sooner is a rule formulated than an exception is identified. Sexual reproduction, for instance, is the rule among the higher living beings; yet parthenogenesis occurs occasionally. If the nature of living beings were controlled by some mechanical process of selection, it would be hard to see why there should be so much variety. But since creationists hold that the nature of living organisms is due to a Creator who might be considered an Artist and likes variety, all of this variety in nature is what should be expected. In fact, it might be one of the predictions of the Creationistic viewpoint that the more closely nature is examined the more variety will be found. At the same time, these facts show that the Creator is not a machine-like being, but One to whom personality may be ascribed.

Some Leaves Fall, Others Stay

Looking at my wild flower garden I was impressed by the difference among plants growing in the same habitat. The garden is a mere strip at the foot of a wall shaded by overhanging trees but a considerable population of tiny perennials

is crowded into it.

It seems that living things should reveal something about the Creator, just as, "The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth his handiwork."¹

The harbinger of spring, *Erigenia bulbosa*, and Dutchman's breeches, *Dicentra cucularia*, lost their leaves late last spring, retreating into the compact packages which are called corms and bulbs, respectively. These tiny plants open their leaves to the sun early in the spring to make and store food, then "close up shop" until the next

†This paper represents, in part, an expansion on some ideas set forth in a note in *The Naturalist*, Escondido, California, Vol. 25, No. 1, Spring, 1965.

*William J. Tinkle, Ph.D., who has worked in genetics for many years, lives at Timbercrest Home, North Manchester, Indiana 46962.