

The Wonder of it All: Two of God's Amazing Creatures

By Mark Jurkovich

I bet if you study any plant or animal long enough you will discover amazing features in its design that declare the glory of its creator; features that just could not have developed on its own. The heavens declare the glory of God, but more so does every living creature and plant. Many good creation books and DVD series have documented some of these wonders of creation, and you could easily fill an encyclopedia of all these wonders. But for this article, let's just look at two of these wonders of God's creation in the flying and hopping categories.

Most people know of the record holder in migration distance which is the arctic tern. But a more impressive long-distance migrator is the **bar-tailed godwit**. The arctic tern travels up to an impressive 11,000 miles each way. While the godwit's 7,000 miles is less, it is often 100% over water without rest! Every year this bird flies from its breeding grounds in Alaska to its 'winter' home in New Zealand. While

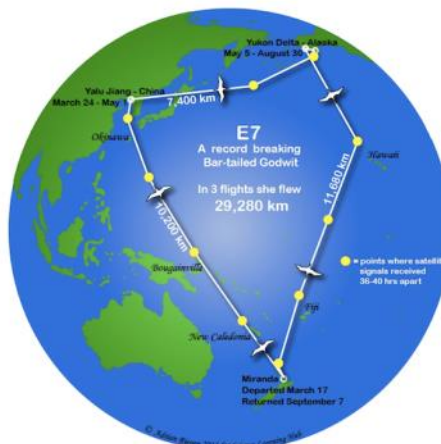


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the return trip north does allow for stops along the Asian coast, the southward trip is almost exclusively over open water!

In regard to its impressive navigation ability one article stated "Researchers believe that a couple of bird's[sic] species make use of the magnetic field of the earth in order to navigate, just like they had a compass built within their brain. There is also a likelihood that the godwit

also navigates with the help of the sun during the day and with the help of the stars during



Sample annual route of the bar-tailed godwit. sciencelearn.org.nz

the night. It is also contemplated that the godwit is capable of sensing any upcoming storm systems which let it avail the benefit arising due to the tailwinds. The details how these incredible birds

make their journey baffles the experts, and they just watch in awe the journey of these birds."¹

Just the navigation ability itself is astounding to scientists. But how can it possibly contain enough reserves in its little body to fly so far without refueling? Bruce Malone, our ARK banquet speaker from 2020 shares several unique and amazing traits of this bird that enable such a long flight.^{2,3}

Before the godwit starts off on its long journey, they gorge themselves so much that they increase in weight by as much as 55%. That would be like a 100 pound person ballooning up to 155 pounds! A normal bird increasing that much in weight would no longer be aero-



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(Continued on page 2)

dynamic enough to fly very well. But the type of fat they produce is unique with very low water content. So, it does not take up as much space as the fat on other animals.

But even this is not quite enough. So just before they start off on their journey, another highly specialized event takes place. Their internal organs such as the liver, intestines and kidneys all shrivel up! When it takes off, it is just as streamlined for flight as before it started the gorging!

There is no way even one of these unique abilities could have evolved by chance, let alone all these marvelous abilities together. Surely this little creature was wonderfully designed by a loving creator.



Image credit [Answers in Genesis](#)

For the second creature in this article, its special feature was documented in the September 2013 journal "Science" where scientists reported the discovery of perfectly formed gears in the tiny **leafhopper nymph**. This tiny juvenile insect can jump so quickly that it accelerates up to 400 times the acceleration due to gravity. Fighter pilots struggle with acceleration at even 10 times gravity. Astoundingly the adult leafhopper loses this gear in the final molt into adulthood; no longer needed once big enough for other methods to take over.⁴

Bruce Malone describes it thusly: "What makes the leafhopper's feat even more amazing is that the nerve impulses cannot travel fast enough to allow both legs to push off in a coordinated fashion – meaning that with every hop, the insect should spin out of control. So how did the Creator solve this problem? He added a set of interlocking gears to the base of the leafhopper's legs so that they are forced to move in exact coordination. This design is cur-

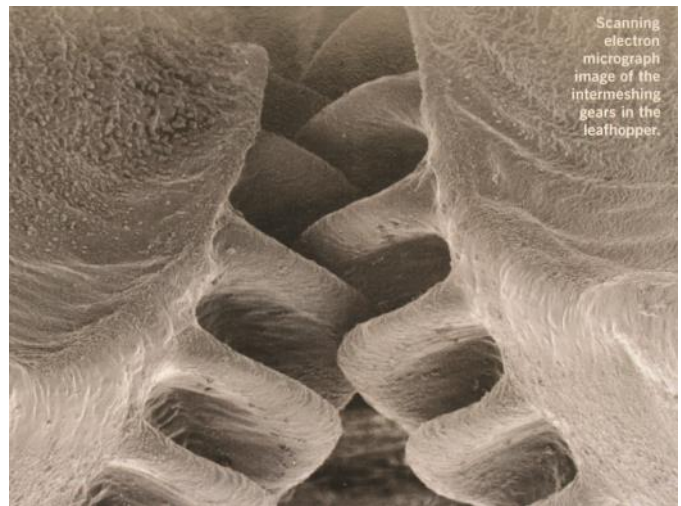


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rently being studied as a prototype for new kinds of high-speed, directional gears. The marvels of the microscopic world and the wonders of God's creativity never cease. The belief that such a gear could 'make itself' via random changes over time is equivalent to believing that a gear could be produced in a machine shop via random hammering of a piece of metal. When we see microscopic gears solving a leafhopper's leap, we stand in awe of our Creator!"⁵

Incredibly, the author of the 2013 article still brazenly credited evolution with coming up with these miniature gears. It is sad how blind some can be in the face of such a clear message of God's creative genius. Pray the eyes of scientists will be opened to these testimonies of their creator.

References

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