

Speakers By Name - Alan Feduccia, Ph.D.



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Perhaps no area of evolutionary study has been more controversial than the origin of birds. While most paleontologists have advocated a dinosaurian origin, Alan Feduccia, professor and chair of the Biology Department in the College of Arts and Sciences, challenges that view.

His recent fossil finds in China indicate that there was an evolution of birds before the arrival of the toothy, reptile-like Archaeopteryx, which was popularly thought to be the dinosaurian ancestor of all birds.

Feduccia's talks also cover his "big bang" theory: that about 65 million years ago most birds died with the dinosaurs, and that the ancestors of all of today's birds evolved explosively in only about 5 to 10 million years. His latest book, *The Origin and Evolution of Birds*, presents his position in detail.

Speech Topics:

- Romancing the Dinosaurs: Hot-Blooded Raptors and Flights of Fancy
- Bird Evolution's "Big Bang"

Links:

- <http://www.bio.unc.edu/faculty/feduccia>
- <http://www.bio.unc.edu/faculty/feduccia>