

CREATION MOMENTS

Proclaiming Evidence for Truth

THIS WEEK'S CREATION MOMENT

The Gardener Bowerbird



And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us; and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it. – Psalm 90:17

Bowerbirds are found only in New Guinea and Australia. They are best known for their love of bright colors and the great care they use in decorating their constructions. All this activity is carried out to attract a mate. Scientists say that the brighter a bowerbird's feathers, the less elaborate its constructions.

The gardener bowerbird wears some of the brightest feathers among the bowerbirds. This spectacular bird, about the size of a blue jay, was last seen in 1895. Then to his amazement, an ornithologist surveying the modern bowerbird population saw one the first day he started looking.

The gardener bowerbird has a yellow front and brilliant orange crest that goes over the top of its head, all the way to its nostrils. It builds a fairly simple bower that resembles a four-foot tall maypole surrounded by a three-foot diameter mossy area. This area has neatly arranged piles of brightly-colored fruit around it. To attract a mate, the male makes different sounds, some of which resemble a frog's croaking. He then holds brightly colored fruit in front of his chest to further impress the female.

The standards of beauty so universal among God's creatures testify that all of the creation is His handiwork.

Ref: C. Simon. "Legendary Bowerbird Thrives in New Guinea." *Science News*, Vol.120, p. 326.

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