

July 20th - Memphis corrected

Well, it had to happen sooner or later. At least it is not as bad as copying down a wrong instrument clearance and then running into a mountain. I apparently heard some data wrong when I had met with Jim Cunningham while in Memphis and gave erroneous information in my posting about the "flying dinosaurs". I am only too happy to make the corrections, and I am attaching the e-mail that I received from Jim explaining how these large creatures really got into the air...using up far less "runway" than my Highlander. Enjoy.

From: Frank T Caruso

To: jrccea@bellsouth.net

Sent: Sunday, July 27, 2008 9:44 PM

Subject: Chance meeting

Hey Jim- Points well taken. I knew that my memory was not what it once was but I had so many new facts to digest, I guess that I just listened wrong. I will submit the corrected info to my friend Steve, who is doing my site and I am sure that he will make the correction. No matter how you slice it, these were some interesting creatures. I still cannot envision something so big being able to get into the air by "jumping". Kinda reminds me of the first time that I watched a Harrier jet get airborne. You see it, but you still cannot believe that it is happening.

Regards,

Frank

-----Original Message-----

From: jrc [mailto:jrccea@bellsouth.net]

Sent: Sunday, July 27, 2008 7:03 PM

To: Frank T Caruso

Subject: Re: Chance meeting

A few thoughts about pterosaurs, if you don't mind -- it is important to me that incorrect information about them not be closely associated with my name, and I'd like to respectfully request that you make some minor revisions to your journal.

They were not dinosaurs, and they could not run. They were most definitely NOT mammals as you called them in your journal. They launched in a 4-legged leap from a standing start with their front feet (hands) being the last thing to leave the ground. No running required. Since most were marine feeders (far out at sea, not so much along shorelines), dynamic lift processes were more important to most of them than convective (thermal) lift. A few, like *Quetzalcoatlus northropi* and *Quetzalcoatlus* species were inland freshwater feeders. A very few were insectivores. They originated during the Jurassic, had been around for quite a while at the beginning of the Cretaceous, and died out at the end of the Cretaceous. Many, many species of pterosaurs died out at that time. In fact the entire order died out, so you might consider saying "wiping out the entire order, as well as most of the rest.....", instead of using the phrase "an entire species" (the event was much worse than one which would knock out a single species). I don't recall if I have assisted the Discovery Channel with documentaries. Since I may not have, I would hesitate to single them out by name. I have assisted the National Geographic Channel with documentaries, and several other channels and production companies as well.

All the best,

Jim

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