The reading asserts that pterosaurs, an ancient group of winged reptiles, were unable to fly by flapping their wings which is called powered flight. The lecturer, on the other hand, finds this idea dubious and casts doubt on the reasons provided by the author.

The first reason mentioned by the passage to support the idea that they could not fly is that pterosaurs might have been cold-blooded, which means that they might have had a slow metabolism, so they could not have provided sufficient energy for powered flying. The lecturer, however, says that analyses indicate that they had some hairy covering like fur. Being exposed to severe cold conditions, warm-blooded species usually have fur covering to maintain high body temperature, so scientists have come to a conclusion that pterosaurs were warm-blooded and could release energy needed for flying.

Furthermore, the reading asserts that pterosaurs might have been too heavy to be able to fly because they were as large as giraffe. The lecturer, on the other side, holds the view that although they had a large body, the density of their body was not too high. Because scientists believe that their bones were porous and hollow instead of being solid. Consequently, they did not need to flap their wings very fast to stay aloft.

The last theory supported by the reading wants to say that unlike other species like birds which can run fast enough or jump to launch themselves, pterosaurs may not have had powerful muscles in their back legs in order to use these methods. The lecturer, however, claims that the method used by pterosaurs to take off from the ground differed from that of birds. They used from all four legs instead of only back legs to take off, so they did not need powerful legs.

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