The article and the lecture both discuss a kind of winged reptiles called pterosaurs. The debate is about whether they could do powered flight or they could only glide. Although the author claims that some theories are rejecting powered flight in pterosaurs, the lecturer utterly repudiates this thesis and provides us with several ideas in its rejection.

To begin with, the author states that pterosaurs are considered to be cold-blooded, just like modern reptiles. Considering that cold-blooded animals normally have a slow rate of metabolism and incapable of producing a lot of energy, pterosaurs could not make the enormous amount of energy needed to fly. That being said, the lecturer casts serious doubt on this idea. As she says, the fossils from pterosaurs contain dense hair cover like fur, which typically appears in warm-blooded animals to maintain their body temperature in cold weather. Hence, pterosaurs, like other warm-blooded animals, were able to supply sufficient energy to fly.

Moreover, the reading and listening passages were at odds on another point: the writer believes that so heavy were the pterosaurs that they could not be able to flap their wings fast to stay up in the air and fly. However, the lecturer points out that pterosaurs had light weight in comparison to their size. In other words, they had hollow bones instead of solid ones, which make their weight low enough to stay aloft and fly.

Finally, the author draws attention to the idea that animals with powered flight use techniques such as jumping or running in order to take off from the ground and fly. Yet again, the lecturer rejects this point by elucidating that such techniques are different in pterosaurs in comparison to birds as pterosaurs can use all their four legs instead of two legs which usually occurs among birds, to walk like bats and push off from the ground. Furthermore, studies have shown that pterosaurs don’t have any difficulties in running or jumping while applying these techniques.

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