The reading asserts that there is evidence that Pterosaurs which were large animals living alongside with dinosaurs were not capable of powered flight. The lecture, however, finds the idea dubious and casts doubt on the reasons proposed by the reading passage.

The author argues that there’s a possibility that ancient reptiles like pterosaurs were cold-blooded as the modern ones were as well. Being cold-blooded in animals usually come along with slow metabolism and as a result they were not able to produce a lot of energy so they could not provide the amount of energy they needed to fly. Conversely, the lecture brings up the idea that there is evidence that pterosaurs had a dense hairy cover on their bodies which is a typical characteristic of warm-blooded animals to keep them warm in cold weather so we cannot be sure about their metabolism rate or the amount of energy they were able to produce.

Furthermore, the reading passage holds the view that the pterosaurs’ weight is a big constraint, in fact they were too heavy to be able to fly. On the contrary, the professor underlines the fact that pterosaurs had some specific anatomical features that made them light despite their large bodies and there wasn’t a proportional relation between their size and their weight so the idea of their heaviness doesn’t seem to be rational too.

Finally, the reading asserts that as many birds use their back legs to jump and lunch into the air, pterosaurs needed strong back legs to help them jumping and flying, but they didn’t have this advantage so they could not run fast or jump strongly. In contrast, the speaker dismisses this issue due to the fact that there are some differences between birds and pterosaurs. Birds only use their back legs to jump while pterosaurs and some other animals can rely on their four legs so they can build the strength to run fast and jump strongly to lunch into the air.

329 words

23 minutes