The reading asserts that paleontologists have long wondered whether large pterosaurs, an ancient group of winged reptiles, were capable of powered flight or not; thus, some reasons proposed by the author to contradict the idea. The lecturer, however, finds the idea equivocal and casts doubt on the reasons proposed by the reading passage.

The author argues that pterosaurs may have been cold-blooded animals, and they were not able to fly following their slow metabolism as other cold-blooded animals since such activities require a lot of energy. Conversely, the lecturer brings up the idea that according to the fossils, pterosaurs were warm-blooded animals because of enjoying dense hair like fur. Hence, they were able to supply enough energy of powered flight even in extreme cold situations.

Furthermore, the reading passage holds the view that pterosaurs might have been bulky animals, so it is far-fetched to postulate that they were capable of flying. On the contrary, the professor underlines the fact that pterosaurs enjoyed some anatomic features like unusual lightweight bones. In fact, these kind of animals had hollow bones rather than dense and heavy bones, so their aberrant low weight enabled them to flap their wings.

Finally, the reading asserts that pterosaurs could have lacked large muscles in their back legs so that they could not launch themselves into the air. In contrast the speaker dismisses the issue due to the fact that despite the birds which are using two legs to push off the ground, pterosaurs could exert their four legs to launch themselves into the air; consequently, they had no trouble to run fast enough or jump high enough to push off the ground.

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