

## **Legacy of the dinosaurs**

### **Video transcript presented by Ben Garrod**

With the discovery of Archaeopteryx a stepping stone, the transition between dinosaurs and birds can clearly be seen.

So it appears that not all the dinosaurs went extinct during the catastrophic events of 65 million years ago.

There was a mass extinction with roughly 65 percent of all life on Earth at that time disappearing, most notably all the large dinosaurs.

It also took almost all of the animals which at the time were evolving into the first primitive birds.

But a few groups of these early birds did manage to survive.

We are not quite sure how, or why, they did, may be an ability to fly or self-regulate their body temperature gave them the edge.

Perhaps their larger and complex brains eventually saved them.

But survive they did and continue to evolve into many new forms.

Becoming the birds we see flying and walking among us today.

They are now one of the most successful and specialized groups of animals on the planet, with around 10,000 species found around the globe.

From the large flightless ostriches of Africa, to the dazzling displays of the birds of paradise, to the bee-like hummingbirds of South America, all sharing an ancestry with the theropod dinosaurs of the past.

Birds are truly the legacy of the dinosaurs.