

FURCULA

Meaning: Furcula: a forked structure, specifically the wishbone in birds, that supports flight and is significant in evolutionary studies of species in paleontology.

1. The furcula, often referred to as the wishbone, is a distinctive feature in birds that aids in flight.
2. In paleontology, the presence of a furcula in fossilized remains can indicate the evolutionary relationship between species.
3. Many birds use their furcula to store elastic energy during the flapping of their wings.
4. The furcula can be found in various species, including those that are not closely related, showcasing convergent evolution.
5. Researchers studied the structure of the furcula to better understand the biomechanics of avian flight.

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