Morris says that the classification system of the modern and ancient animal worlds has "the same categories and the same gaps between the categories." This is such an obvious and important error that it is easy to cite scores of outstanding examples of exactly the opposite which are found within the sedimentary rock strata of the earth. We will mention a few in this paper. Several others are given in Wonderly (1987, p. 60-61), and sources for more are cited there.

It is true that most of the 20-odd phyla of modern animals have some representatives in the early strata systems, but within individual phyla there are great differences. For example, it has long been recognized that nearly one-half of all species of Phylum Mollusca are found only as extinct fossils, and that only about 260 of the known 30,000 species of Phylum Brachiopoda are living today. Within these phyla--and also in Phylum Bryozoa, Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata), and Phylum Echinodermata--it is not just species that are extinct, but there are many families, orders, and even subclasses, which are known only as ancient fossils. (The five phyla named above make up practically all of the volume of macrofossils we find in the rock strata.) The trilobites (members of Phylum Arthropoda), which became extinct before the end of the Paleozoic Era, make up a very small percentage of the fossil assemblages which we find in the rocks. But all eight orders of the trilobites, with all their suborders, families, genera, and species, are extinct and confined to the Paleozoic rock systems.

Morris, not knowing that the trilobites had a relatively light (non-dense), chitinous skeleton, similar to that of crabs, has long said that they were so dense that they all sank to the lower layers during the Flood. Actually they were much less dense than the clam-type mollusks which are found in great abundance in the rock systems of the Mesozoic and Cenozoic eras; and both animal types lived in the same marine ecological zone (subtidal sea floor).

All of the phyla just named--Mollusca, Brachiopoda, Bryozoa, Cnidaria, and Echinodermata--have contributed very extensively to the immense volume of macrofossils which are found in the Paleozoic rock systems (especially in limestone deposits). And all five of these phyla have major groups (families, orders, and sometimes even whole classes) which are extinct, as documented in any good paleontology textbook. For example, within the Phylum Cnidaria (Coelenterata) there are three orders of corals which have been major producers of limestone formations. (Many miles of our nation's roads are paved with the fossilized skeletons of these creatures, because the ancient coral reefs frequently became very thick and massive, and thus are good sites for locating rock quarries.) Two of the most common and productive of these orders, Rugosa, and Tabulata, are entirely extinct and are found only in Paleozoic rock systems (except for a few species in the Lower Triassic). The order Rugosa included many species of solitary corals, which grew individually, rather than as a part of a colony. These solitary species are very commonly found in limestone formations even where there are no reefs. Yet they are not found in the limestone deposits of the many geographic areas which are covered by Jurassic through Quaternary rock systems. The teachers in our Christian schools certainly need to know about these many realities which contradict the claims of trusted young-earth authors. We will now consider two more striking examples of the same, concerning which such authors seem not to be at all aware.

(a) A Great Fossil Group Which Did Not Sink During the Flood

No specimens of the other of the 3 major orders of corals--Order Scleractinia--are found in any of the vast areas and thicknesses of Paleozoic rock systems on the earth. These corals, often called "scleractinians" or "hexacorals," have built (together with the help of algae) all of the many great reefs which are found