Quote: "When food becomes scarce during dry periods, birds [finches] with the largest beaks are more likely to survive. As a result, the average **beak size …has increased dramatically**." [emphasis added]

Question: Is the textbook intentionally omitting the fact that when climate in Galapagos returns to normal, average beak size oscillates back to its pre-drought size and does not exhibit long term evolutionary change?

See Wells, J. 'Icons of Evolution', Regnery, 2000, pp. 159-175:

The increase in average beak size in several species of Galapagos finches after a severe drought, and its return to normal after the drought ends, is evidence for natural selection in the wild. But selection oscillates with climate fluctuations, and does not exhibit long-term evolutionary change.

Beak size and shape is controlled by two genes, similar to eye color in humans. Genetic variants of the HMGA2 gene controls beak size in the birds, while a gene called ALX1 controls whether beaks are blunt or pointy. Birds that have two copies of the large-beak allele of the gene have big beaks, while two copies of the small-beak allele produce little beaks. Birds with one of each have intermediate-sized beaks. *See Science News, Vol. 189, No. 11, May 28, 2016, p. 7*

So, beak size variation is simply a matter of gene frequencies, as described in Fig. 17-2, p. 483, and varies between strict limits defined by **pre-existing** genetic variants. (There has been no new information added to the gene pool.) This phenomenon shows that the Galapagos finch populations have inherent adaptability to food fluctuations through the **design** of their beak genetic apparatus.

To imply that this variation reflects Darwinian molecules-to-man "evolution" is disingenuous at the least and fraudulent at the most, and ranks close to the top of deceptions that many students have experienced in their study of biology, such as Haeckel's 'embryological recapitulation,' found in the 2000 edition of the Miller/Levine text.