

Some of the most brilliant butterflies in tropical America are the butterflies of the genus Morpho. Many species are brilliant metallic blue. A few of the females are metallic red. These butterflies have a mirror like quality to the upper surface of their wings. They can be seen from several miles away if they are flying over the tops of the trees in the jungle. The sun reflects off of their brilliant wings.

So, how does God protect these beautiful creatures? Apparently they are good to eat, although I have never tried one. The birds like to eat them. But, if they are so easy to see, how do they survive? God has designed that the brilliant reflective surface of the wings actually protect it!

If a bird sees the Morpho and starts to chase it, the butterfly will fly down into the dense shadows under the jungle canopy. Here, where it is dark, the upper surface of the wings looks almost black and the bird will have trouble seeing the butterfly. If the bird is still able to track the butterfly and gets close to it, the butterfly will find a shaft of sunlight coming down through the trees. It will then fly through it, causing a FLASH of light to shine in the eyes of the bird. The butterfly can then get away.

Once the butterfly gets away, it will land on a tree. God designed the bottom of the wings to have great camouflaged. Because of this, the butterfly can land and safely hide.

Many years ago, I was trying to catch one of these butterflies. I saw one flying toward me. I was sure that I was going to be able to capture it. However, just before it got to me, it landed on the trunk of a tree. Even though it was only a few feet away from me when it landed, I could not see it again until it flew. I walked over to the trunk of the tree and looked carefully at all the shrubbery around the tree, but I could not see it.

God is very good at taking care of the Morpho butterfly. Although very easy to see, it is very hard for any predator to catch. God is very good at taking care of us too.

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**SHORT TIP**  
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When presenting this to a group, it helps to have a camera flash. When you tell about the butterfly flying through a flash of sunlight, have a specimen or picture of the butterfly and trigger the flash at the butterfly. This will help the viewer understand how it would be hard for the bird to follow it.

You can find some camera flashes that can be manually triggered here:

- Camera World –
- Wolf Camera –
- Photo Alley –

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**Butterfly Books**



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Welcome to TRACKING GOD NEWS

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God is a Faithful Guide – Migration
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When I was in grade school, our family lived in Tulelake, California. The lake, along with other lakes in the Klamath Basin, was one of the major stopping points for water fowl that were migrating. It was a magnificent site to be able to see hundreds of thousands of snow geese flying so thick that they looked like a large flying snow bank.

Something that has always been a mystery to scientists is how these birds know when to leave their current habitat and fly long distances to find a better habitat for the upcoming change in weather. It is also a mystery how they get where they are going. While scientists have started to find out how adults follow the pattern by following other adults that have been there before, they have not even started to find out how some birds know where to go.

In 'The Shorebirds of North America' R.S. Palmer tells how the adults of many shorebirds will fly south before the young are ready to go. The young will then fly south when they are ready. They will end up in the same area as the adults. Scientists have no explanation of this at all!

In the insect world a similar thing occurs. The monarch butterfly in North America winters in two places. The western population will migrate to Monterrey, California. The eastern population goes to a patch of forest north of Mexico City.

However, none of the butterflies that congregate there have EVER been there before. Yet faithfully, every year, they fly to the same trees that their parents stayed in the winter before.

How do the butterflies and birds know where to go? How can they find just the right place that will give them the best chance of being safe during the cold winter months? To followers of God, the answers are obvious. God has been leading and directing the lives of His creatures every since He created them.

Just like the birds and butterflies, we often have 'cold' times in our lives. God has shown every year with millions of examples that He can be trusted to lead you to your own place of safety. Please continue to trust that He will direct you in the right way.

Until next time, may God be with you,

Ron McCluskey  
<http://www.trackinggod.com>

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Resources
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I've had some problems with links from other newsletters, so please check the online newsletter here for resources:

[http://www.trackinggod.com/issue\\_6.htm](http://www.trackinggod.com/issue_6.htm)

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Ron McCluskey is an emergency room physician and amateur naturalist. Growing up, he studied insects and birds. While he continues to enjoy studying these natural subjects, his interest has grown to include the rest of creation as well. He has spent over a year doing volunteer work in tropical countries. While there he enjoyed seeing how God's creation gives ample evidence of His intimate knowledge and care for His nature.



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