

# Nat Theo Club

## FIELD NOTES

ISSUE 33



### Praying Mantis

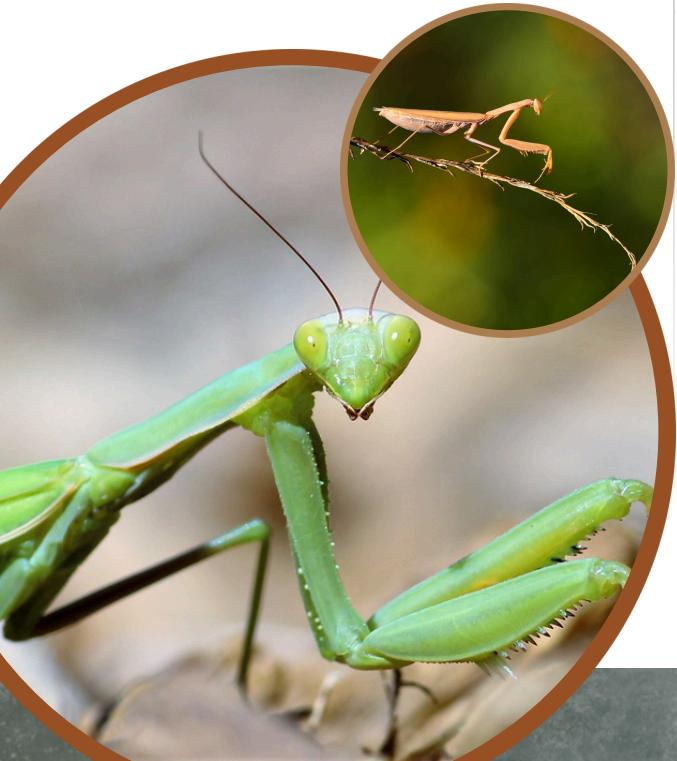
INSECT

#### HABITAT & DIET

While many praying mantis live in tropical rainforests, some also live in deserts, grasslands, meadowlands, and woods. They are carnivores which means they eat insects and animals. They eat mainly other insects but can also eat spiders, reptiles, and small birds.

#### FUN FACTS

Praying Mantises are part of a larger group of insects called mantid. There are over 2,400 types of mantises. That is a lot of different designs for a mantis!



#### HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A PRAYING MANTIS?

My family and I were sitting in our car in the coffee shop drive-thru last week when my son looked out his window and saw a praying mantis in the bush next to us. I was very surprised he could see it because the green praying mantis blended in very well with the pine tree. Seeing a praying mantis is always a special treat because they can be challenging to find and spot. But when you see them, they are easy to identify because of their long, folded arms. They get their name because they often look like they are praying with their arms folded. But do you think praying mantis actually pray?

Like other insects, praying mantis are designed by God but do not have spirits, so they can't understand or know God like we do. However, when insects, animals, or plants follow their God-given designs, it always brings glory to God, even though they don't know it like we do! Can you think of other things in nature that give glory to God? I think of a sunrise or sunset, birds singing, and bees following their important God-given job of pollinating plants. The praying mantis is a fun reminder that God created everything in nature to glorify Him.

One way things in nature glorify God is by pointing our attention to God. When we are in nature, we can think about God and worship Him for the wonderful things He has made. Nehemiah 9:6 says, "You alone are the Lord. You made the skies and the heavens and all the stars. You made the earth and the seas and everything in them. You preserve them all, and the angels of heaven worship you."

The angels also worship God as the creator of everything. What are some things you enjoy seeing in nature? When you see them, remember God as the great creator. That brings glory and joy to Him! You can even fold your hands like the mantis and pray a prayer of thanks.

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