



LESSONS FROM
GOD'S
CREATION

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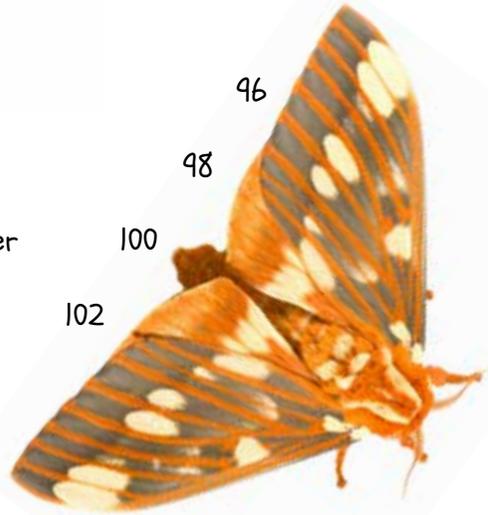


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Many Rooms

They build nests, raise young, protect their territory, and drift above the ground. No, they are not birds. They are fish!

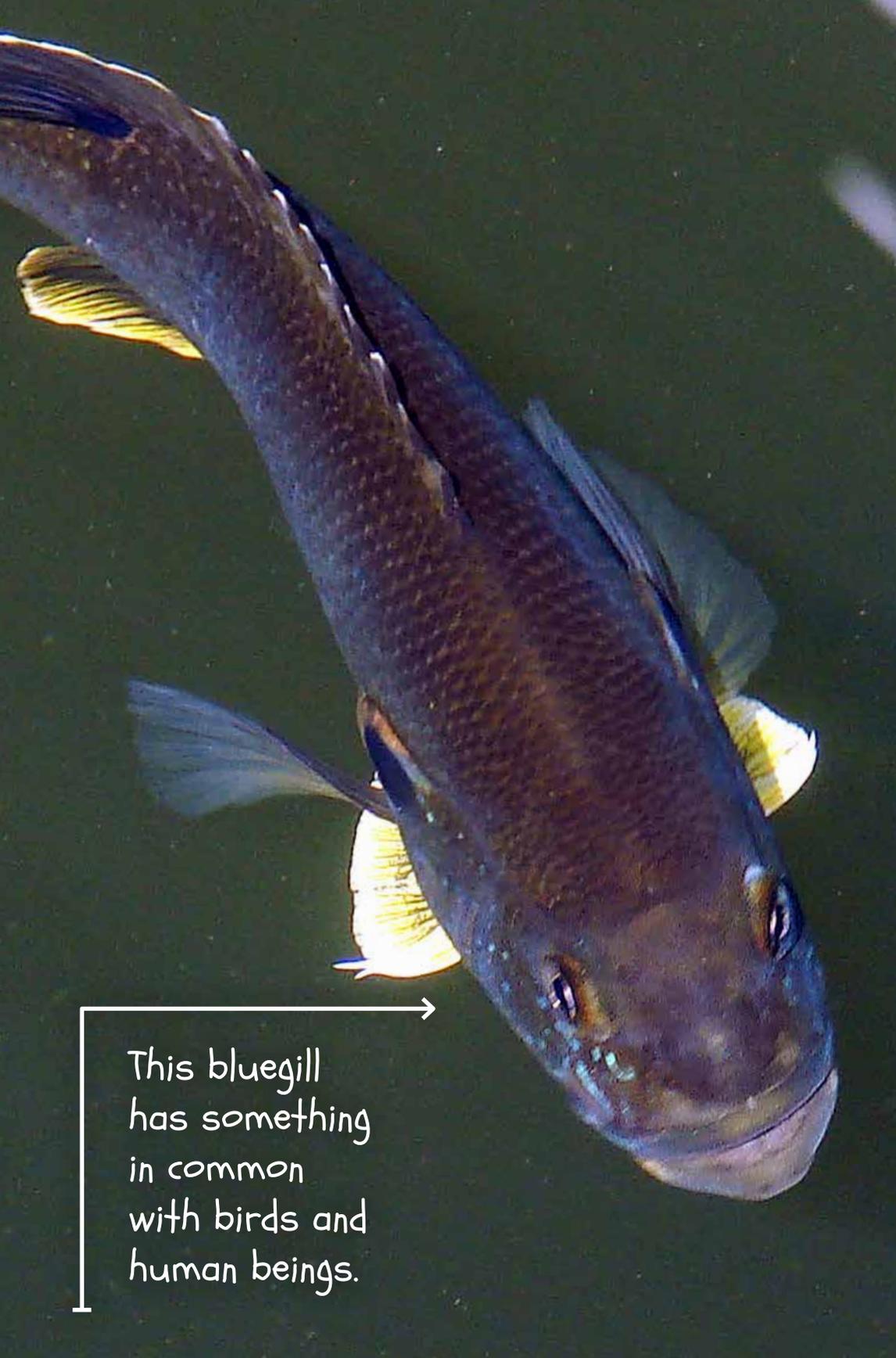
Fish live in salt-water oceans, fresh-water rivers, and spring-fed mountain lakes. And like birds, their nests are sometimes built in sand, in caves, among rocks, or deep in a mound of dirt. Some fish even build their nests out of sticks, just like their feathered friends.

While many birds have big eyes so they can see clearly at night, fish depend on a special sense organ built right into their bodies that works like radar to help them move through dark or murky waters.

Jesus said, “There are many rooms in my Father’s house” (John 14:2). He was talking about heaven. But it’s the same here on earth. God’s house of *nature* has “many rooms.” The ocean is like a “room” filled with water and fish. The sky is a “room” filled with air, birds and bugs. We find mountain rooms, desert rooms, jungle rooms, and island rooms—all home to God’s creatures. We may even live in one of those rooms.

So, when we look at a fish, we are simply peeking into one of God’s many rooms—a hint of heaven where people of all kinds will live together forever.

“There are many rooms in my Father’s house. . . . I am going there to prepare a place for you” (John 14:2).



This bluegill
has something
in common
with birds and
human beings.

The Big Thaw

Meet the frog. Frogs like to sit in the shallow waters of summer ponds and rivers and serenade each other. They catch bugs with their long, sticky tongues and hop here and there exploring their world. They can jump up high to capture flying insects and dive down deep under the ripples in search of food.

But it is what they do in the winter that is the real surprise. When cold winds blow and snow blankets the forest floor, some frogs sleep in trees, in underground burrows, under fallen logs, or even underwater. They are not only sleeping but are also frozen solid!

They don't eat. They don't hop. They don't sing. They just wait for spring to come, locked away in what scientists call "hibernation." They are not dead. They are just in a deep sleep.

Then, when the days grow longer and the sunlight warms the world, an amazing thing happens. Frozen frogs slowly thaw out! Before long, they blink their big eyes and look around. *Hey, now I can get back to eating and hopping and jumping*, they say to themselves in frog talk. *And I can sing too!* And they do.

Sometimes, sin captures us like a cold winter wind, and we stop doing what we know is right. Then Jesus' love thaws the cold in our hearts, and we can begin singing praises to Him once more. We might even hop and jump for joy!

Lord, even when I have trouble all around me,
you will keep me alive (Psalm 138:7).



Gray tree
frogs love to
sing.



Giving Thanks

It can turn its head from front to back like an owl. Its eyes see the world in stereo just as we do. There is a special organ inside of it that can sense the silent vibrations that bats send out when hunting for food. And in many parts of the world, it's a much-loved pet.

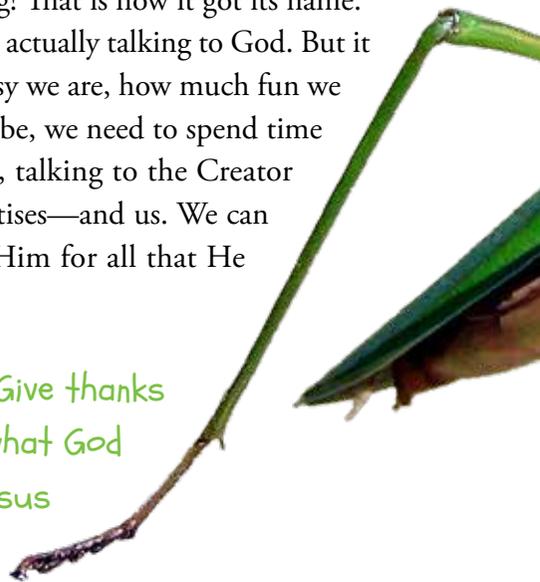
Meet the praying mantis, a creature filled with surprises.

This beautiful animal lives in warm places and spends its time flying over meadows and streams searching for something to eat for about a year. It begins life as a tiny egg. While growing up, it can shed its skin like a snake up to ten times!

But most people don't think about this large insect's neck, eyes, special organ, or skin. They don't just notice its glassy wings, funny-shaped head, or jagged feet. They see something even more interesting. When not chasing another insect or flying among trees and bushes, the praying mantis sits quietly with its arms folded over its narrow chest. To many, the creature looks just like it is praying! That is how it got its name.

No one thinks the praying mantis is actually talking to God. But it can remind us that no matter how busy we are, how much fun we are having, or how worried we might be, we need to spend time with our hands folded in front of us, talking to the Creator of all things. God made praying mantises—and us. We can speak to Him every day and thank Him for all that He does for us.

Never stop praying. Give thanks
whatever happens. That is what God
wants for you in Christ Jesus
(1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18).



A close-up photograph of a green praying mantis perched on a weathered wooden plank. The mantis is facing forward, with its long, thin antennae extended upwards. Its most striking feature is its raptorial front legs, which are folded in a way that makes it look like it is in a prayerful or listening posture. The mantis's body is a vibrant green with some reddish-brown markings on its abdomen and thorax. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a natural outdoor setting. A white line with an arrow points from the text on the left towards the mantis's head.

A praying mantis
looks like it is
talking to God.