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# Winging It

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
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As evening approaches, monarch butterflies huddle together to keep warm, swathing tree trunks with their clusters. These colorful insects are among the millions that migrate thousands of miles from the northeastern United States and southern Canada to their winter sanctuary near Angangueo, Mexico.

*Monarchs fly 25 to 30 miles a day (farther in favorable conditions) for several weeks to reach their winter homes.*

*It's romantic to believe the popular myth that monarchs return to the exact trees to which their great-grandparents migrated, but it's simply not true. They do, however, travel to the same regions as their ancestors.*

*Each Mexican colony hosts individuals from various parts of the eastern population. That means that even if one winter colony suffers a catastrophe, there will still be monarchs from others to head north and reproduce throughout the species' summer range.*

*Small populations of these majestic butterflies also live outside of North America, in Australia, Indonesia, the Canary Islands, and Spain.*

