

condition is much greater than at others. The first is in the spring, starting with the first fine days as soon as the willows are in bloom, at which flowers and others, numerous species of the bee genera *Andrena*, *Osmia* and *Halictus* swarm. This is the time when the beautiful, large queen bumble-bees can be secured in fresh and unfaded condition. These early insects belong to two classes; those like *Andrena* and *Osmia* that have reached the adult stage the previous autumn, but have deferred emergence until spring, and those like *Bombus*, *Halictus* and *Vespa*, consisting of females only, that have hibernated and left their mates to die before winter. After a lull in June the great summer procession begins, and it goes on until the middle of August. The species are now more numerous, but the specimens less plentiful than in spring, so that searching in choice habitats will usually prove very productive. These summer fliers have mostly passed the winter in the full-fed larval stage.

A few notes about killing and mounting wasps and bees may be helpful. A cyanide bottle is usually satisfactory for killing if used with care. It should contain plenty of dry blotting paper or other absorbent to prevent specimens rolling about and thus damaging their coats with moisture, and the specimens should not be allowed to touch the cyanide, and should be removed within one or two hours to avoid the reddening of the yellow tegumental markings by the cyanide.

On a collecting excursion, lasting several days, the specimens may be laid between layers of cotton batting in cigar boxes, and may be relaxed and mounted in the autumn. To mount them, use a No. 3 steel pin for all moderate or large-sized specimens, and a No. 2 for all small ones, except the very smallest, which may be mounted on small, triangular strips of cardboard with glue or fine points, the cardboard being run on to No. 3 pins. Avoid using No. 1 pins. In the quick handling of dried specimens mounted on these, the abdomen is very likely to fly off and the pin may bend; also use store boxes lined with deep, soft material such as pith, not thin hard cork or linoleum. Do not trouble to spread the wings, it is hard and costs much time to do this satisfactorily, and where it is attempted the specimens take up a great deal of room, but see that the propodeum (metathorax) and base of the abdomen are