

With regard to grasshoppers, it is strange that their regular periodic movements have been largely overlooked, though no doubt this is partly due to a lack of knowledge as to where to look. At Aweme, Man., where locusts have been troublesome of recent years, one instinctively looks up towards the sun, taking care to get behind some building, or in some way hide the sun's disc and then, if there are any flying, they will be easily observed within a radius of from one to fifteen diameters from the sun.

When a locust has the instinctive incentive to fly it is said to inflate the air sacks along the side of its body; it then rises with a spiral movement, round and round, higher and higher, until reaching a height of some hundred feet or more and feeling the resistance of the wind, it sails slowly away, usually flying with its head facing the breeze if it is at all strong, and gradually getting higher as it moves along with it, until it becomes a mere speck of glistening whiteness, when close in line with the sun and invisible elsewhere. When there is no breeze it will return obliquely to earth to await a more favourable opportunity.

That this desire, or instinct, to fly elsewhere is no sudden impulse is shown by the fact that a locust when disturbed seldom flies any great distance, and in fact seems incapable of doing so, while those that are prepared rise easily. Nor is the movement due to lack of food, as one often sees them rise in the midst of plenty. No, it is Dame Nature's way of spreading her children over the country, and she has taught them, through the law of natural selection, to go and also how to prepare for their journey.

The migratory season commences soon after locusts reach maturity, that is when they have passed their final moult, and some three or four weeks before they commence laying eggs. It lasts almost a month. There is not, however, a continual movement, only hot sunny days are chosen and even then the locust is dependent on the wind which not only carries it along but also indicates its direction. The days most preferred are those when the breeze averages some fifteen miles an hour, though lesser winds, as well as higher, are used to advantage; locusts seldom fly, however, when the wind is blowing hard.

It is interesting to watch these movements on a gusty day, when calm one moment and breezy the next. Then every fresh gust is taken advantage of and one sees hundreds of locusts rise on such occasions, as if having waited their opportunity. It is the same while looking up towards the sun, one moment will only discover a few, the next a perfect swarm moving at different angles owing to the breeze having slightly different directions at