

the only bees left in the hive after the swarm has issued are the very young ones, still silvery-grey and evidently hatched within a few hours. If the hive is examined an hour or two later a number of older bees will be found in it, no doubt those that were out in the field when the swarm issued. These bees look after and feed the thousands of larvæ from one to six days old and are assisted in this work by the hundreds of young bees which are hatching every hour. First swarms accompanied by the old queen usually leave the hive between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3.30 p.m., seldom earlier or later. Second and after swarms are much more uncertain in their habits, and it may almost be said of them that they will leave the hive during any hour when the sun is shining. First swarms always cluster for a time within a reasonable distance of the hive which they have left, but second swarms have frequently been known to go straight away for miles without a preliminary halt.

The first outside indication of a swarm will be an unusual number of bees about the entrance of the hive; not hanging in the listless idle manner they do for several days previously, but all excitement, running in and out of the entrance, flying a short distance only to return until at last the exodus begins in real earnest, and a wonderful sight it is to see those thousands and tens of thousands of insects all filled with the same desire to leave in the utmost haste their well provided home for one which, in the ordinary course of nature is probably as yet unfound and certainly devoid of the necessities of bee life. It is quite commonly supposed that the queen leads out the swarm: this idea is entirely erroneous, as she seldom appears until the swarm has partly issued and often she is amongst the last to leave the hive. As to how or when the new home of a swarm, possibly in a hollow tree, is selected, must always remain a matter of doubt, but it is probable that a suitable place is found by some of the worker bees during the time the swarm is hanging on the bough of some tree, and that these bees return and lead the way to their future abode. In about nine days after the first swarm has issued a second swarm from the same hive may be expected if the weather is favorable and the honey flow abundant. This second swarm will be accompanied by a young or virgin queen, and on the seventh or eighth day if a swarm is going to issue, she can be distinctly heard giving the swarming note which is called "piping," and which resembles the word "zeep" repeated several times in rapid succession at intervals of a few minutes. Her piping will be answered by other young queens which are ready to leave the cells at any time, but which are either afraid to do so,