

Where Do Flies Go? The Emigration Voyage of 1920

Every year, millions of flies embark on an epic emigration voyage. They leave their homes in search of new food sources, breeding grounds, and climates. This annual migration is one of the most impressive natural phenomena on Earth, and it has been studied by scientists for centuries.



Where do flies go....?: Emigration Voyage 1920

by Frank Cascio

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The first recorded observation of fly migration was made by the Roman naturalist Pliny the Elder in the 1st century AD. Pliny wrote that flies would often follow armies on the march, and that they would sometimes travel hundreds of miles in search of food.

In the 19th century, scientists began to study fly migration in more detail. They discovered that flies use a variety of cues to navigate their way during migration, including the sun, the stars, and the Earth's magnetic field.

One of the most famous fly migrations in history occurred in 1920. That year, a massive swarm of flies descended on the city of London, England. The swarm was so thick that it blocked out the sun and caused the city to come to a standstill.

The 1920 fly migration was a major scientific event. It helped scientists to learn more about the behavior and navigation of flies, and it also raised awareness of the importance of fly control.

Today, fly migration is still a major problem in many parts of the world. Flies can spread diseases, contaminate food, and cause other problems. Scientists are working to develop new ways to control fly migration, but the problem is likely to persist for many years to come.

Why Do Flies Migrate?

Flies migrate for a variety of reasons, including:

- **To find food.** Flies are attracted to food sources, and they will often travel long distances to find food.
- **To find breeding grounds.** Flies need to find suitable breeding grounds in order to lay their eggs. These breeding grounds may be located far from the flies' home.
- **To find a better climate.** Flies are cold-blooded animals, and they need to find a climate that is warm enough for them to survive. This may mean migrating to a warmer climate during the winter months.

How Do Flies Navigate During Migration?

Flies use a variety of cues to navigate their way during migration, including:

- **The sun.** Flies use the sun to orient themselves during the day. They will fly in a straight line towards the sun, which helps them to maintain their course.
- **The stars.** Flies can also use the stars to navigate at night. They will fly towards the North Star, which helps them to maintain their direction.
- **The Earth's magnetic field.** Flies can also use the Earth's magnetic field to navigate. They will fly in a straight line along the lines of the magnetic field.

The 1920 Fly Migration

The 1920 fly migration was a major scientific event. It helped scientists to learn more about the behavior and navigation of flies, and it also raised awareness of the importance of fly control.

The migration began in the spring of 1920, when a large swarm of flies emerged from their winter hibernation. The swarm traveled north, following the sun and the stars. It eventually reached the city of London, England, where it caused a major disruption.

The swarm of flies was so thick that it blocked out the sun and caused the city to come to a standstill. The flies landed on everything, including people, animals, and food. They spread diseases and contaminated food, and they caused a general sense of panic.

The city of London was eventually able to control the fly migration by using a variety of methods, including spraying insecticides and setting up traps. The migration ended in the fall of 1920, when the flies returned to their winter hibernation.

The 1920 fly migration was a major scientific event, and it helped scientists to learn more about the behavior and navigation of flies. It also raised awareness of the importance of fly control, and it led to the development of new methods for controlling fly migration.



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