

neighbor; for to find a queen, under such circumstances, often baffles the most experienced apiarist. But if we do the work in fruit-bloom, when there are comparatively few bees for the brood they are covering, and the queen very large from her prolific egg-laying, using the time from 9 a. m. to 3 p. m. to look for the queen, this being a time still more favorable on account of a large share of the few bees of the colony being at work, it will be a rare thing that any queen is not found on the first effort, and almost immediately, even by the novice."

"Another new thought to me. But tell me more about how you do it."

"I take along a light empty box of the same dimensions as the hive, and after smoking the bees as little as possible to keep them from stinging, if they are of the cross kind (many colonies need no smoke at all at this time of the year), I carefully lift the first comb and as it comes from the hive glance at it to see if there is brood in it, for it is generally useless to look for any queen at this time of the year on combs having no brood in them, if the queen has not been stampeded by careless operations. As soon as I find brood I look closely for the queen, first glancing down the side of the comb next to the one I am lifting from the hive and next on the opposite side of the one I hold in my hands, holding the comb a little obliquely as I look for the side of any queen gives a better view than when looking straight on her back. While you are looking for the queen on the frame that is in your hand, should she have been on the side of the comb next to you, and you failed to see her, she would immediately pass around to the dark side of the comb, so it is generally useless to look for her on the side of the comb next to you, after you have it in your hand."

As the combs are taken from the hive, set them in the box, so that, should you not find her the first time over, you will have the same chance of seeing her in setting them back into the hive again that you did at first. In this way, after a little practice, you will have little or no trouble in finding any queen, even should it be a black or German queen.

"I think I understand that part now. The next thing is how to clip, and I must be going, as I have already stayed longer than I intended."

"Having found her I take her by the wings with the thumb and fore finger of my left hand, when, with my right, I place the sharp blade of my jack-knife on the part of the wings I hold in my left, lowering both hands to within an inch or so of the tops of the frames, when I draw the blade just a little, thus severing the wings, when the queen runs down into the hive the same as if nothing had happened."

"I thank you very much for your patience in so minutely explaining this to me. But one question more. Is there not danger of cutting the fingers?"

"No, not if you stop drawing the knife as soon as the queen falls; and place it squarely on the wings when starting. Some use scissors and they are very good; but after using all plans recommended, I like the knife the best, and it has the advantage in that every one carries a knife which is always on hand at any time you may chance to find a laying queen that is not clipped."—Conversations with Doolittle in Gleanings.

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The nest embodies all that is greatest in a bird's life, as the home does in man's life.—Ladies' Home Journal.