

distinctly for some distance flying about in the air. In watching them we noticed a martin catching one on the wing. The thought suddenly flashed through our mind that perhaps this was where our queens had been going. Further observation proved conclusively that the martins were at any rate making away with a great number of bees. Going to the house we procured our gun and brought down one of the martins which was flying around. On dissecting it we found the gizzard crowded almost to bursting with bees. We shot three more and found the same results. To-day six more were brought down, and we have proven quite conclusively to our own minds that we have been losing our queens through the presence of these birds. In most instances we found nothing but bees in the gizzard; in one, however, we found a bug and in another a piece of grasshopper. They have been apparently feeding on our bees for the past two or three years and we have until now been without knowledge of the fact. We have not been able to recover any of the queens which have been lost, though we suppose they would be but very little use now. Every day large numbers of queens fly out, and we are pretty sure that we will, some of these fine days, catch the martins in the act of "doing up" some of our queens! These birds resemble much in their size, shape, general appearance and flight a bird which we found very destructive in the Island of Cyprus. In certain seasons of the year they came from the south in great numbers and we lost many queens at our apiary at Larnaca. We should like to have information on this point from others.

QUEENS BY MAIL.

A WASHINGTON despatch published in the daily papers is as follows:—"The Canadian Post-office Department having assented to a proposition of our department to admit to mails exchanged between the States and Canada, packages of queen bees and their attendant bees, when so put up as to prevent injury to those handling the mail, while at the same time allowing easy verification of the

contents, Nicholas M. Bell, superintendent of foreign mails, has issued an order that packages of bees will hereafter be entitled to transmission by mail to Canada, provided they conform to the conditions prescribed for them in the domestic mails of this country, and similar packages received in mails from Canada should be promptly forwarded to their destination and delivered to the addresses indicated." This settles the matter in dispute and no more uneasiness need be felt in forwarding bees either to or from the United States. During the time that this correspondence between the Governments has been in progress quite a number of queens have been mailed and none of them have been molested, though we cannot say so authoritatively, still we think that the postal authorities have instructed their postmasters at the lines to allow such to pass until a definite decision was arrived at. This we now have and it should be satisfactory to every bee-keeper.

THE SEASON THUS FAR.

WITH a view to ascertaining the honey yield thus far and the prospects for the fall flow we sent out postal cards to representative bee-keepers in almost all the counties in the Province. Up to date we have received replies from counties and the reports are anything but cheering. The whole matter condensed may be summed up by saying that the probable average yield per colony throughout the whole province will not be five pounds, the total increase not more than five per cent. The prospects for the fall flow are exceedingly poor and the probability is that feeding will have to be resorted to rather strong. It has been charged that publishers of bee-journals refrain from giving discouraging reports in their journals, fearing that someone may be kept out of the honey business by so doing, and especially is this the case where the bee journal publishers are also supply dealers. We have not given the names of our contributors as we did not mention when sending out the postal cards that the replies were for publication. It does not make any difference, however, whether we have the names or not,