

the combs with honey for extracting etc. Amos, don't you see these few upper hives are very handy to go to, to get brood, because you know just where to find it, and again, you see the bees are not gathering honey enough to fill with new combs the empty space in the supers, if the upper hive should be left half emptied of its frames. But it is better to move the dummy up to the brood combs. The bees will cover the outside of the combs next to the dummy better by its being moved up.

Amos when I have any extra brood, and no place that I want to use for the moment, then, I just put it in these upper hives. Tomorrow I may want to use the brood elsewhere. It's a good place to put in a few old combs I want the bees to clean up. Sometimes I put frames of honey that have been wintered in the honey house. The heat of the bees and the hives setting it the warm sun will get the honey warmed up, so it is in better shape to use to feed some swarms that may run short of honey. The bee moth will not trouble the combs in these upper hives over strong swarms. Amos, these upper hives are a sort of National Bank to this yard of bees, but I am the cashier, and you and David are my clerks, and I want you to see that the deposits are properly cared for, and when you check out brood or honey from this bank, see that it is done to the best interest of the whole number of colonies in this bee yard.

Amos, now I will consider I have my bees all equalized, and they all have queens good enough to last until swarming time, and the queens all have one wing clipped. You see I cut off the wide fan of the left wing, slanting so as not to cut off too much of the heavy arm, as that hurts the queen, and makes her clumsy.

Now boys we must watch these swarms some after fruit bloom is over with, and see that all goes well until red raspberries are in bloom, that will be on hand in a few days. It may be necessary to draw more brood from some of the strongest swarms, and give to those that are not up to the standard.

Sometimes I have found it to be a good plan to do some wholesale feeding of sugar syrup for a day or two, to keep the bees from starving or becoming discouraged. Once I fed three yards of bees. On the first day of June their honey was gone, and they had lots of brood. We had several days of rainy weather, with but little sunshine, so the bees could not work on the raspberries which were then in bloom. Myself and help got around and don't you forget it. I fed the bees in all three yards, 20 miles drive one way. Fed warm sugar syrup in a wash tub. I set the tub in the

middle of the yard put in some straw so the bees would not drown, and then burnt some comb to cull the bees, and put honey on the tub and straw. The sun shone and the bees got there. The next day the weather was fair, and the bees got honey enough from bloom to help themselves. I had then had four bee yards that I had not been able to feed, but all went well. A few swarms had dragged out some brood. I now think there will be no more work with the bees until we put the section boxes on.

I have already written this article too long, but for the sake of beginners I will say this much more. When I change my bees to their newly scraped hive, if I fail to see the queen when handling the frames over the first time, I do not spend very much time in looking for her then, but lay a stone on the hive and pass on to the next hive, and so on until I get through the yard. Then I go back to the hives that have the stones on and carefully open and lift out the frames and look again, and you will be sure to find the queen. The frames are all loose and you can lift them now without a jar. Set the first two or three frames outside of the hive, until the queen is found. I clean my hives when the bees are working at their best on fruit bloom, and do not miss more than five queens in a hundred the first time over.

Swarming time is the best time to remove the queen, so I have considered the queens good until then. I have considered too, that all the brood frames were filled with good straight worker combs. If there is too much drone comb in the hive during fruit bloom it should be cut out and worker comb fitted in its place.

Frames fitted entirely with drone comb containing honey, can be set over the dummy on either outside of the brood nest, not more than two frames drone comb thus in a 10 frame hive; the bees will remove the honey as they need it, but seldom rear brood in it there. Before boxing the bees however, the drone comb should be changed for worker comb in its stead. I used to get all my guide comb for boxes, by having the bees remove the honey from drone combs that were built by new swarms the previous year. I would have the honey removed from all new clean white drone combs in both frames and boxes and cut them up in pieces 2 inches square, and fasten them in surplus boxes for starters. All the honey was removed by the bees inside of the hives, then we had neither honey extractor or comb foundation.

Next month I will tell you when and how I want my bees boxed, etc.

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