

If it is found that the water receptacles are empty when one goes to feed young ducklings, it is advisable to give them a drink first and delay the feeding till after they have had a drink.

Further notes on duck-keeping will be published in next issue.

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THE APIARY.

Moving of Bees.

At this season of the year bees may be moved to a new location with perfect safety. If the work is left until spring, when the activities of the hive commence, the resultant loss of field-bees is enormous. More especially should advantage be taken of the bees' dormant condition if the hives are to be moved short distances only. The colonies are numerically weaker, and there is usually little brood to become injured in transport. When hives are located for any length of time in one position, the flying bees take full observation of every landmark, but as in the winter there are shorter periods of sunshine the flight of the bees is necessarily curtailed, and they usually return at a much shorter distance from the hive. In addition, there are often periods of several days together during which they take no flight at all, and in consequence they must renew their acquaintance with their surroundings when an opportunity for flight occurs. Therefore, if the hives are moved during a spell of bad weather, the bees will take more readily to their new location when a fine day comes. Any bee-shifting operations should be completed before the end of July.

To secure bees for transit over a short distance sufficient ventilation can be provided by tacking a piece of wire gauze over the hive-entrance. It is then necessary to secure only the bottom and roof, and, after making sure that there are no holes through which the bees can escape, the hive may be carried with safety.

The successful moving of bees over long distances calls for considerable preparation. All heavy combs should be secured, and only sufficient honey left in the hives to prevent the bees from starving during their journey. The most important factor is ventilation, and neglect of this matter leads, as a rule, to heavy losses when bees are being moved. The constant vibration of any vehicle tends to disturb the cluster, and the excitement caused thereby is sufficient to raise the temperature of the hive considerably, so that the bees are in danger of being suffocated and the brood scalded. These troubles can be avoided by the employment of wire screens. It is advisable first to see that the frames are made as secure as possible by inserting two wedges between the side of the hive and the top of the end frames. This prevents the frames from rocking during transit. The bottom-board should then be secured to the hive-body by means of crate-staples, driving one end of the staple into the hive-body and the other into the bottom-board. Usually six staples are sufficient. The screens can be made by using narrow laths nailed together to form a frame of the same dimensions as the hive-body, and covering this with wire cloth such as is used for making queen-cages. The screens must be fastened securely to the top of the hive and the entrance covered with wire cloth. By this means ample ventilation is provided to ensure the safe carriage of the bees during the winter months.

In these days of motor transport the work of moving bees over long distances is greatly minimized, and the beekeeper should adopt this method if he can. In any case, the beekeeper who has occasion to move bees should not relax any effort to make the hives secure when moving to a new location.