

2023 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #27a

Weeks go by pretty fast for me. It has taken almost a week for me to recover from Jet Lag. I am feeding my bees here in North Carolina -- this area's honey flow ended some time ago. When inspecting my hives I noticed a number of things -- it is hot -- a bit difficult to work bees for me. The bees are bearding and other than checking for brood, it is almost impossible to find queens. Food that was in the hive when I took off honey is being used up pretty fast -- queens are still laying eggs but not as much as earlier. I did notice the hives had very little drone brood. I look for drones when I check my hives. They often can give me an idea of what is going on in a hive. Too many drones in a hive is a red flag for me. No drones is a red flag. Any virgin queen flying to mate needs drones in the area. I am pleased when I see a few drones at this time of year. By October, I expect to see almost none.

Thus, this article shares information about the forgotten drone. I have written a number of articles on various bee topics, but in looking back, I have avoided drones.