

AI Voice Recording Feature

Beta Tester Feedback Report | June 2026

11

Beta Testers

7

Positive Responses

3

Critical Bugs Reported

6

Feature Requests

Executive Summary

Eleven beta testers participated in evaluating the AI Voice Recording inspection feature across a range of apiary sizes and usage contexts. Overall sentiment is strongly positive — the core concept of hands-free, voice-driven hive inspections resonates deeply with beekeepers, who consistently cite relief from typing with gloves and the accuracy of AI-generated summaries as standout benefits. However, several critical reliability issues — including lost recordings, crashes, and records saved to the wrong hive — must be resolved before a broader rollout. A handful of UX improvements and feature requests were also consistently raised.

1. What's Working Well

Core Voice-to-Summary Pipeline

The majority of testers found that dictating inspection notes and receiving an AI-generated summary works well in practice. Accuracy was praised, and the retention of the full raw transcript as a safety net was highlighted as a key confidence builder.

- Most testers reported the AI correctly mapped spoken observations to the right inspection fields
- The full transcript backup was called out as reassuring by multiple users (Tony G., Bernard)
- Phil U. noted that even beekeeping-specific terminology like "brood" largely survived transcription

"Beekeeping requires you to be fully present with the colony. The new voice recording tool allows me to maintain that focus. Instead of breaking my rhythm to log notes, I just dictate my findings, and the app seamlessly transposes the information into the right areas. The fact that it retains the full raw transcript as a safety net gives me complete confidence in the data."

— Tony Ganger, Northern Michigan Beekeeper

Freedom from Typing with Gloves

This was the most universally appreciated benefit. Multiple testers independently described relief from trying to type with gloved hands covered in propolis and honey.

- "SOOOO great to get away from typing inspection reports with gloves." — Bernard
- "Hive Tracks has made the reporting process easier and this is important for beekeepers." — Phil U.
- Shane, Mark, and Chris G. all echoed the ease and speed of recording

2. Critical Bugs & Reliability Issues

Several testers encountered serious reliability problems that erode trust in the feature. These should be prioritized before wider release.

Issue	Detail & Affected Testers
Lost Recordings	Karen lost full inspection recordings twice — complete data loss after significant dictation effort. Mark also experienced lost recordings after app crashes. This is the most critical reliability issue.
App Crashes	Mark reported the app crashed several times during recording processing. Records do not save on failure, leaving no recovery path.
Wrong Hive Assignment	Bernard reported inspection notes being saved to the previous hive inspected — occurring repeatedly across two consecutive days. The summary showed the correct hive name but the record was filed under the wrong one.
Screen Must Stay On	Cobi and Arthur both reported confusion or lost recordings when the phone screen auto-locked during recording. It is unclear whether recording continues in the background. Shane noted this as a known limitation.
Apiary Selection Required?	Raymond found that inspections were not updating the hive record correctly. He is unsure whether the apiary/hive must be pre-selected before starting a recording.
Record Button Not Obvious	Phil U. completed a full inspection only to realize he had never pressed record. Clearer recording state feedback is needed.

3. Feature Requests & UX Improvements

The following improvements were requested by multiple testers and represent clear opportunities to elevate the experience.

High Priority

- Multi-hive recording in a single session — Tony G. and Arthur both want to dictate across multiple hives without stopping, saving, and re-opening for each one. A voice command like "switching to Hive B" would suffice.
- Voice-activated recording — Karen suggested hands-free trigger to start/stop recording, eliminating the need to tap buttons mid-inspection.

- Hive name in AI summary — Bernard requests that the hive name always appear in the generated summary, especially while the wrong-hive assignment bug persists.

Medium Priority

- Spoken punctuation recognition — Lloyd noted that saying "colon" produces the word "colon" in the transcript rather than the symbol ":". Standard dictation software handles this; it should be implemented here.
- Guided prompt reminders — Bernard noted that without the 5-screen inspection prompt flow, he tends to skip recording certain standard fields (food stores, colony size, brood patterns, health). A voice prompt or checklist reminder would help.
- AI-driven hive detail updates — Chris G. suggested the AI could update persistent hive details mid-inspection (e.g., automatically marking a queen as "marked" after the keeper dictates catching and marking her, or updating frame counts when supers are added).

Lower Priority / Infrastructure

- Offline recording support — Arthur asked whether recording can function offline in the apiary and sync when back on WiFi. This would be valuable for remote outyards.
- Connectivity requirements — Mark asked what the minimum connection speed is (WiFi vs. cell, minimum Mbps). Documentation or in-app guidance on this would reduce confusion.
- Easier access to prior inspections — Bernard (managing 12 hives) noted it takes too many taps to review the previous inspection before starting a new one.

4. Tester Sentiment Summary

Despite the bugs, willingness to continue using the feature once issues are resolved is high across the board.

- Rick B. — Positive. Uses it as a post-inspection summary tool, then reviews and edits at home. Working well for his workflow.
- Karen — Frustrated due to two complete data-loss events. Eager to continue if reliability is fixed. Submitted voice-activation feature request.
- Tony G. — Very positive. Six sessions across two hives. Single requested improvement: multi-hive recording in one session.
- Lloyd — Positive. Identified spoken punctuation issue and worked around duplicate entry problem. Constructive and detailed feedback.
- Raymond — Struggling with more failures than successes. Unclear on required workflow (apiary selection before recording).
- Cobi — Confused by recording state when screen goes dark. Loves the app overall, needs clearer UX guidance.
- Bernard — Experienced wrong-hive assignment bug repeatedly. Strong advocate once bugs are fixed. Provided testimonial.
- Arthur — Positive. Lost a recording after accidentally leaving the app. Wants multi-hive recording and offline support.
- Phil U. — Very positive. Missed the record button once. Noted beekeeping terminology mostly transcribed correctly.

- Shane — Positive. Flagged screen-on requirement and missing "recommended future to-dos" functionality.
- Mark — Positive overall. Concerned about crash-related data loss and unclear connectivity requirements.
- Chris G. — Positive. Proposed advanced AI hive detail update feature.

5. Recommended Next Steps

P0 — Fix Now	Investigate and fix recording data loss (Karen, Mark) and app crashes. Resolve wrong-hive record assignment (Bernard). These are trust-breaking bugs.
P1 — Next Sprint	Improve recording state visibility (screen lock, record button indicator). Clarify apiary/hive selection requirement with in-app guidance or documentation. Document connectivity requirements.
P2 — Roadmap	Multi-hive recording in one session. Spoken punctuation recognition. Hive name in AI summary. Voice-activated recording. Guided prompt reminders during dictation.
P3 — Consider	Offline recording with WiFi sync. AI-driven hive detail updates (queen status, frame count). Easier navigation to prior inspections.

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