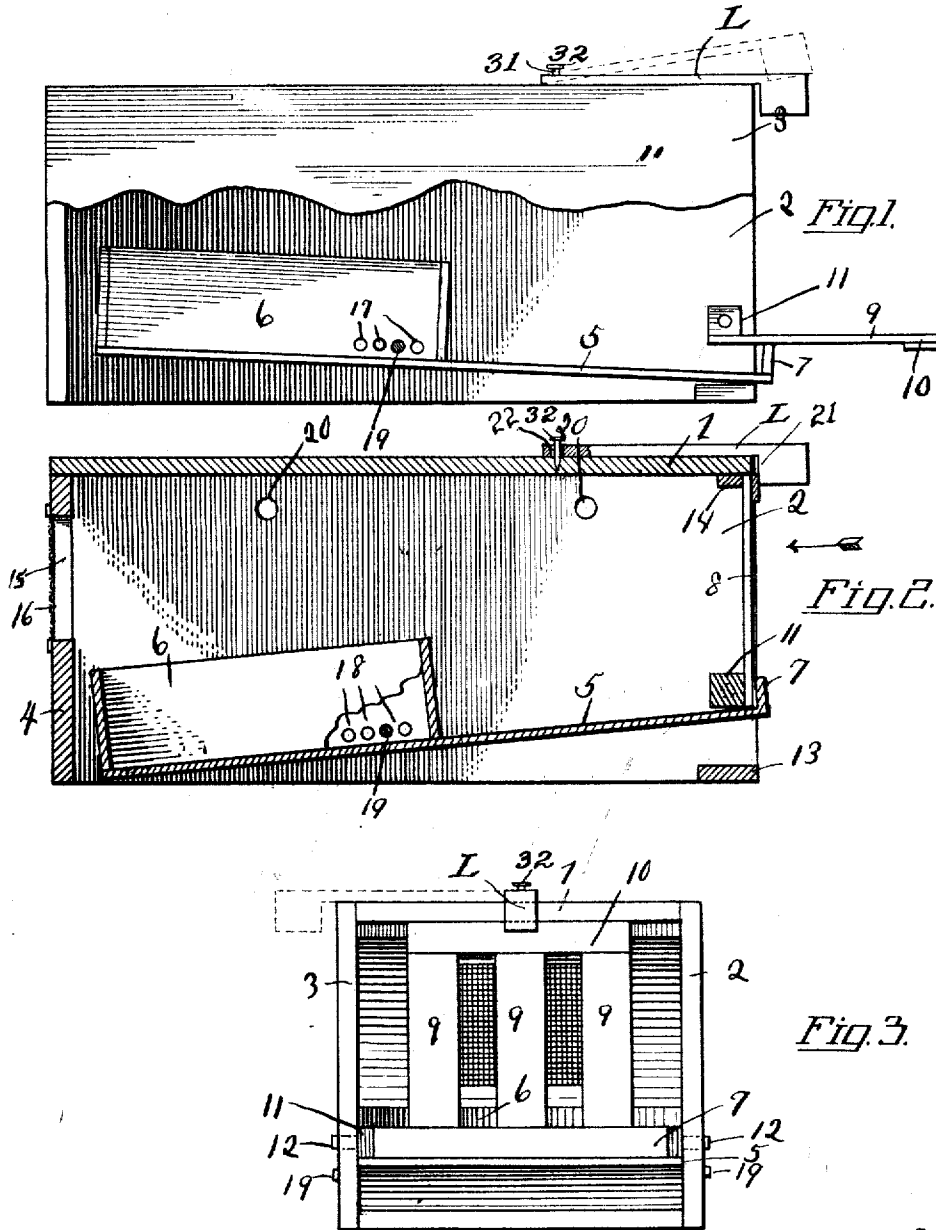


J. C. WILKES.
HEN'S NEST.
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950,419.

Patented Feb. 22, 1910.



Witnesses:
Wm. Smith.
R. M. Elliott.

Fig. 4. L 22 21

Inventor,
Joseph C. Wilkes

Attorney,
Victor J. Evans

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH C. WILKES, OF ATHENS, OHIO.

HEN'S NEST.

950,419.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 22, 1910.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH C. WILKES, a citizen of the United States, residing at Athens, in the county of Athens and State of Ohio, have invented new and useful Improvements in Hens' Nests, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to hens' nests and traps.

The object of the invention is to produce, in a novel manner, a poultry nest and trap so simple in construction and operation as to be easily and successfully manufactured by poultry-keepers at home, which shall be so durable, cheap, and efficient as to be desired by all poultry-keepers, and which shall provide complete protection to a laying or setting hen from the attacks of rats, weasels, or other animals, and also from the intrusion of other hens that may desire to lay or set with her.

With the above and other objects in view, as will appear as the nature of the invention is better understood, the same consists in the novel construction and combination of parts of a hen's nest, as will be hereinafter fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification, and in which like characters of reference indicate corresponding parts, Figure 1 is a view in side elevation, with a part of the casing broken away to display the interior mechanism. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view. Fig. 3 is an end view looking in the direction of the arrow in Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a perspective detail view of the latch.

The nest embodies in its construction a box or casing, which may be constructed of any suitable material, and which comprises a top wall 1, two side walls 2 and 3, and an end wall 4.

Disposed within the box is a base-board 5 which constitutes the bottom of the box and on the rear portion of which is mounted the nest 6, which may be formed by nailing pieces of board to the member 5, or by disposing thereon a box. The board 5 is provided with an upstanding cleat 7 that is designed to engage with the lower portion of a door 8 of any preferred construction and cause automatic closing of the same when the nest is occupied by the hen. The board 5 extends beyond the pivots or bearings of the door, which must be placed far enough from the edges of the casing to allow the door to

drop when released by the cleat 7. The door may be constructed, as shown in the present instance, of a plurality of vertical slats 9, a top cross-piece 10 of less length than the width of the box, and a bottom cross-piece 11 of substantially the same length as the distance between the two side walls of the box, with which it is pivotally connected by pins hinges or pintles 12. The downward movement of the front end of the board 5 is limited by a cross-piece 13, and the inward movement of the door by a cleat 14 secured to the under side of the top wall. If preferred, the door could be allowed to contact with the casing and thus dispense with the cleat.

In order to ventilate the casing, its rear wall is provided with an opening 15 which may be covered by a wire netting 16, and if the door 8 be slatted, it will be seen that the hen will be housed in a comfortable manner, even in extremely warm weather. Of course it will be understood that the casing could be a slatted structure throughout, or of wire fabric.

One of the essential features of the invention resides in constructing the nest in such manner that it may be adjustable to the weight of the hen and the eggs so that under all conditions, when occupied, it will tilt to the position shown in Fig. 2, and thus hold the door 8 in closed position. To accomplish this result each of the side walls of the nest, adjacent to its lower forward end, is provided with a series of openings 17 which are designed to register with like openings 18 in the side walls of the casing adjacent to their lower edges, and these openings are engaged by pins 19 thus to hold the base-board pivotally supported. These pins are arranged to be easily withdrawn thus to permit the nest to be removed for the purpose of cleaning. If preferred the openings could be formed in the base-board and secure the same function. The attendant by observation can see whether the weight of the hen and the setting of eggs will be sufficient to tilt the nest downward, and if such is not the fact, the pins 19 may be adjusted toward the front of the nest thus to increase the leverage on the rear portion of the board, or toward the rear to decrease the leverage.

As soon as the hen leaves the nest and passes beyond the pins 19, the front end of the board 5 will drop to the position shown in Fig. 1, and the door 8 will also drop and

rest upon the cleat 7, and thus afford a perch for the hen.

The box may be either placed upon the ground, a floor, or it may be suspended upon a fence or building, or other support to secure which result either of the side walls may be provided with openings 20 which will engage hooks or nails driven in the support.

When a trap-nest is desired, a latch L (see Fig. 4.) or other device is secured to the top of the casing 1, allowing the notch 21 to project far enough in front of the casing to engage the top of the door 8 when shut, and thus hold it shut until opened by the attendant. The latch is best fastened to the top wall 1 by means of a hole 22 which engages a nail 31, less in diameter than the hole, allowing the head 32 of the nail to project somewhat above the latch, thus allowing the front end of the latch to be swung to one side of the casing when a trap-nest is not desired.

From the foregoing description it will be seen that although the improvements herein described are simple in character, that they will be thoroughly efficient for the purposes

designed, and will co-act in the production of a thoroughly practical and durable article for the object for which it is constructed.

I claim:—

In a device of the character described, a casing, a foot board pivotally supported therein and having an upstanding cleat at its front end, a nest supported upon the foot board in rear of the pivot, a door supported pivotally between the sides of the casing in rear of the front end of the foot board and adapted to be engaged and actuated by the cleat upon the foot board, a latch adapted for engagement with the upper edge of the door, and a headed fastening member loosely extending through an aperture in the latch thereby permitting the latter to be supported on top of the casing when moved to one side out of engagement with the door.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOSEPH C. WILKES.

Witnesses:

R. L. WOODWORTH,
H. C. BOHN.