

G. A. STONE.

NEST.

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Fig. 1.

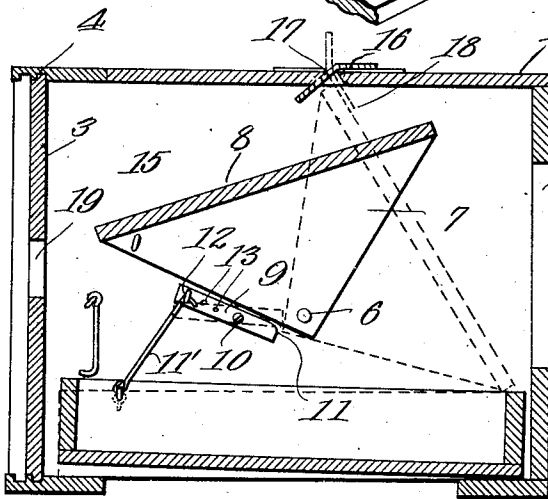
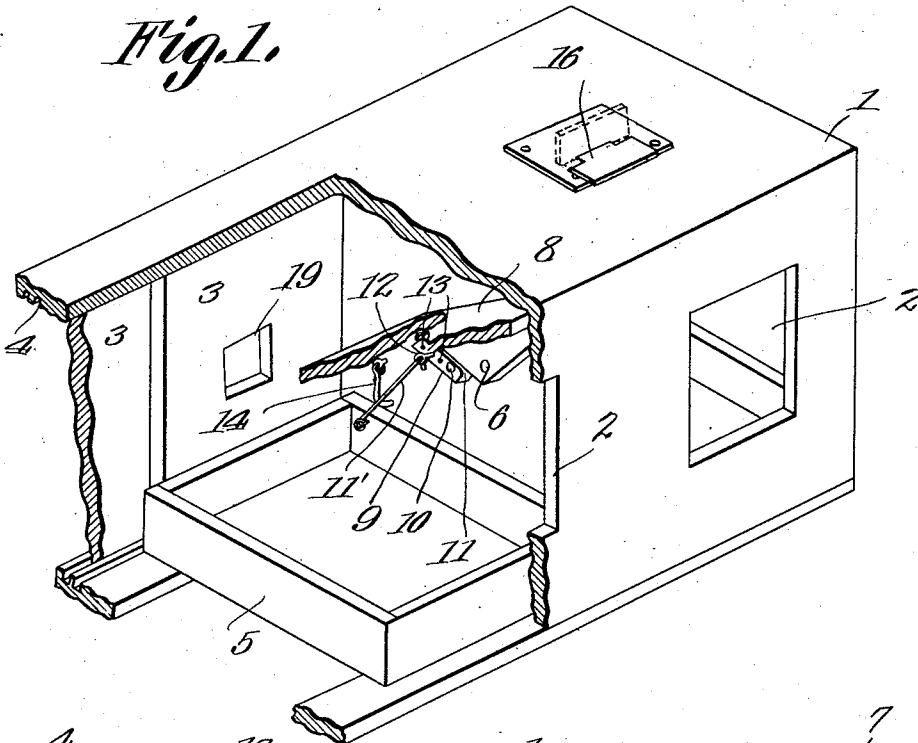


Fig. 2.

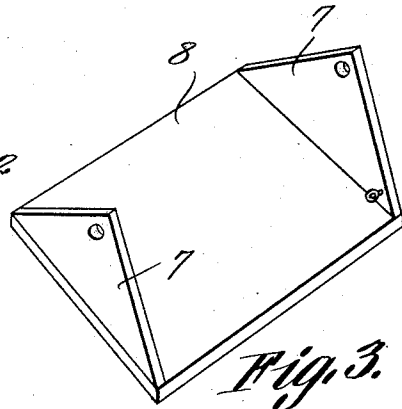


Fig. 3.

Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GLENN A. STONE, citizen of the United States, residing at Marietta, in the county of Lac Qui Parle and State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Nests, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to hens' nests, one of its objects being to trap a laying hen whereby to compel her to remain on the nest for a predetermined number of hours during the day, the mechanism provided for this purpose being simple and compact and operating without danger to the fowl.

A further object is to enable an attendant to ascertain by a glance at the box or housing whether or not it is occupied, thus to eliminate the necessity of inspecting the nest for that purpose, with attending liability of frightening the hen.

With the foregoing and other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention resides in the combination and arrangement of parts and in the details of construction hereinafter described and claimed, it being understood that changes in the precise embodiment of the invention herein disclosed, can be made within the scope of what is claimed, without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In the accompanying drawings the preferred form of the invention has been shown.

In said drawings:—Figure 1 is a perspective view of two nests embodying the present improvements, one of said nests being broken away to show a portion of the interior construction. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section through one of the nests. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the door or hood inverted.

Referring to the figures by characters of reference 1 designates a housing which can be of any proportions desired and the front of this housing is provided with an inlet opening 2. As shown in Fig. 2, two or more of these housings may be combined in a single structure so as to provide two or more nests. It is preferred to close the backs of the nests by means of horizontally slidable closures 3 the upper edges of which travel within grooves 4. If desired, however, the back ends of the nests can be closed in any other suitable manner, as by means of hinged doors or the like. Each housing

has a nest box 5 which bears at its front end upon the bottom of the housing. Pivottally secured to the sides of the housing, as at 6, are the sides 7 of a hood or closure 8, the top of said closure being preferably flat and the sides 7 being preferably triangular as shown, although it is to be understood that these sides can be of any other shape desired. The hood can be made of metal, wood or any other suitable material and the pivots 6 are located below the center of gravity of the hood or closure. The closure is of such size as to be entirely housed within the housing 1 when the nest box 5 is not occupied and presents no obstruction to the entrance of the fowl. The space between the upper edge of the nest box and the under side of the top of the hood or closure is sufficient to permit a fowl to enter readily although only one can enter at a time.

The means for tripping the hood or closure 8 includes a pair of trips or triggers 9 pivottally connected at 10 to the sides of the housing and between the back portions of the sides 7 and the rear portion of the nest box 5. Each of these trips or triggers may be formed with a rounded or cam edge 11 if desired, although this can be dispensed with. This edge is adapted to work against the lower edge of the adjacent side 7. Hooks 11' are pivottally connected to the sides of the box 5 near the back end thereof and are adapted to be placed in engagement with eyes 12 which are insertible into any one of a series of openings 13 formed in the trips or triggers. The parts are so proportioned that when the hooks 11' are in engagement with the eyes 12, the back end of the nest box is supported out of contact with the bottom of the housing 1. By providing eyes which can be placed in any of the openings 13, the nest box can be adjusted for use by fowls of different weights.

Should it be desired to use the nest as an open one, or, in other words, to prevent the tripping mechanism from operating, a hook, such as shown at 14, may be provided, this hook being shiftable into engagement with an eye or keeper 15 carried by one of the sides 7 so as thus to hold the hood or closure 8 against movement.

It will be apparent that when a fowl enters the opening 2, it necessarily places its weight upon the nest box 5 and, as it enters farther into the housing 1, the weight ap-

plied to the elevated end of the nest box is increased. This weight ultimately becomes sufficient to cause hooks 11' to pull downwardly on the trips or triggers 9 and thus lift the cam ends of the trips so as to force the hood or closure 8 to swing about its pivot 6 and into the position shown by dotted lines in Fig. 5, thereby closing the opening 2 and preventing the fowl from escaping from the nest.

As stated, it is one of the objects of the invention to enable an attendant to determine at a glance whether or not the nest is occupied. To accomplish this result there is a flag or signal 16 preferably formed of sheet metal and which has a tongue 17 extending downwardly through an opening 18 in the top of the housing. This tongue normally hangs free but projects into the path of the hood or closure 8. When the nest is occupied the flag extends straight upwardly, it being held in this position by gravity. When, however, the hood or closure 8 moves to shut position it strikes against tongue 17 and shifts it out of normal position, thus forcing the flange 16 to a vertical position and holding it thus. When a fowl has been confined the desired length of time, the operator merely trips the hood or door to the position shown by full lines in Fig. 2 whereupon the signal is released and will return to its initial position.

The back closures 3 can be readily shifted out of position, as when it is desired to obtain access to the nest for the purpose of cleaning it or otherwise. As shown in the drawings each of these back closures may be provided with an opening 19 for ventilating purposes.

What is claimed is:—

1. A housing, a nest tiltably supported therein, a closure pivoted below its center of gravity within the housing, a trip pivotally mounted below the closure and separate therefrom, and a connection between the trip and nest for transmitting motion from

the nest when depressed to the trip to force the trip in engagement with the closure.

2. A housing, a nest tiltably supported therein, a closure pivoted below its center of gravity within the housing, a trip pivotally mounted below the closure and separate therefrom, an adjustable detachable connection between the nest and the trip for transmitting motion to the trip from the nest when the nest is depressed, said trip when actuated constituting means for shifting the closure toward closed position.

3. A housing, a nest tiltably supported therein, a closure pivoted below its center of gravity within the housing, a trip pivotally mounted below the closure and separate therefrom, an adjustable detachable connection between the nest and the trip for transmitting motion to the trip from the nest when the nest is depressed, said trip when actuated constituting means for shifting the closure toward closed position, and means for engaging the closure to hold it against actuation by the trip.

4. A housing, a nest tiltably supported therein, a closure pivoted below its center of gravity within the housing, a trip pivotally mounted below the closure and separate therefrom, an adjustable detachable connection between the nest and the trip for transmitting motion to the trip from the nest when the nest is depressed, said trip when actuated constituting means for shifting the closure toward closed position, a signal tiltably mounted on the housing, and a tongue depending therefrom and into the path of the closure, said closure when moved to closed position, being shiftable against the tongue to tilt the signal upwardly to active position.

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

GLENN A. STONE.

Witnesses:

JOHN A. JOHNSON,
G. C. LEWIS.