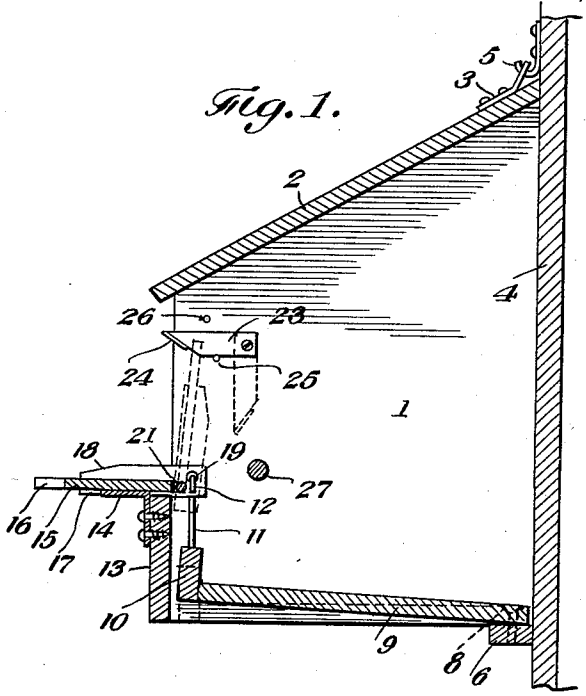
May 24, 1932. S. YUHAS 1,860,304

POULTRY NEST

Filed June 24, 1931

Fig. 1.



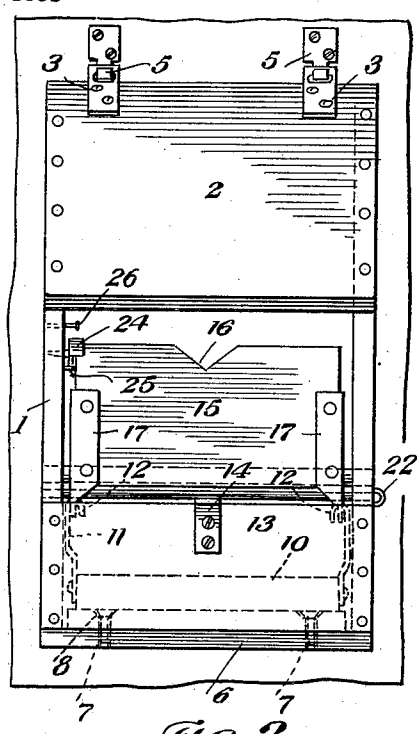


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

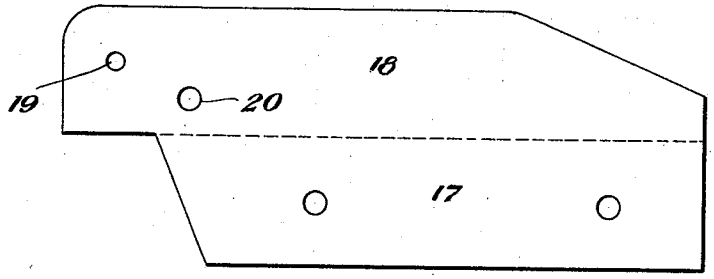


Fig. 4.

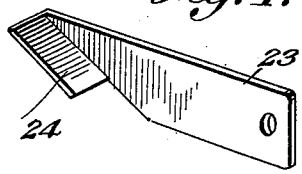
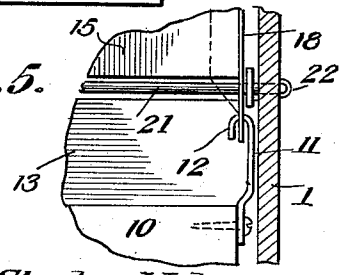


Fig. 5.



Stephen Yuhas
INVENTOR

BY Victor J. Evans and Co.
ATTORNEYS

Patented May 24, 1932 1,860,304

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

STEPHEN YUHAS, OF HELENA, MONTANA

POULTRY NEST

Application filed June 24, 1931. Serial No. 546,596.

My present invention has reference to an improved trap nest for hens, my primary object being to simplify and improve the existing art by providing a trap nest of an extremely simple construction, which may be cheaply manufactured and marketed, one which affords an individual nest that is properly ventilated, rust-proof, easily cleaned and sprayed, which employs no springs in its construction, which helps to eliminate egg breaking, which prevents the hen being molested while laying, and which may be attached to supports in a hennery or removed therefrom as occasion requires.

To the attainment of the foregoing the invention consists in the improvement hereinafter described and definitely claimed.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is an approximately central vertical longitudinal sectional view through the improvement, the door being open.

Figure 2 is a face view thereof with the door closed, parts being broken away and parts in section.

Figure 3 is a view of the blank from which the door reinforcing and hinge plate are formed.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the latch.

Figure 5 is a detail sectional view.

The nest may be constructed of wood or metal and comprises a substantially rectangular body member 1 that has a downwardly sloping top, an open back, bottom and partially open front. The top 2, at the rear thereof, has secured thereon plates 3 provided with openings, while the vertical support 4 upon which the nest is to be arranged has fixed thereon hooks 5 to be received through the openings in the plates 3. The open bottom, at the rear of the nest has its sides connected by a cleat 6, and passing through this cleat there are pins 7 that are freely received through openings 8 in the rear portion of the movable bottom 9 for the nest. The outer end of the bottom has fixed thereto a cleat 10 to whose ends there are fixed wire members 11 whose upper ends are bent to provide the same with hooks 12. The front of the nest, from the bottom thereof, is partly closed by a plate 13, and on the outer face and at the center of the plate there is fixed the depending arm of an angle bracket 14, the outstanding and horizontal arm of the said bracket providing a rest for the door 15 of the nest, when the said door is open. The door is of a width less than the distance between the front plate 13 and the top of the nest. The door has its outer edge centrally provided with a V-shaped opening 16 and has fixed on its outer faces and edges angle reinforcing hinge plates. As disclosed by Figure 3 of the drawings the hinge plates are formed from a single blank of metal which is centrally and longitudinally bent upon itself to provide right angular flanges. The side flange 18 of each hinge plate has its rear portion extending a suitable distance beyond the second or body flange 17 and the extending portion of each of the plates is provided with an opening 19 that receives therethrough the hooked ends 12 of the members 11. The flanges 18 of the hinge plates are each provided with an opening 20 disposed inwardly of and nearer the flange 17 than are the openings 19. Through these openings 20 there is passed a pivot rod 21 which rod also passes through the sides of the nest 1 and has one of its ends bent against the outer faces of one side of the nest and secured thereon by a staple 22.

Pivoted on the inner face of one of the sides of the nest there is a gravity influenced latch plate 23. The latch plate has its outer end cut at an angle and this angle end is formed with a lateral lip 24, under which the door 15 rides when the said door is swung to closed position and which lip, when the latch plate is permitted to swing by gravity, engages the door to hold the same closed. The latch plate is limited in its downward movement by a removable pin 25 and is limited in its upward movement by contact with a fixed pin 26.

The floor 9 has straw arranged thereon and provides the nest proper and fixed to the sides of the nest 1, inward of the door, and, of course, above the floor 9 there is a rod that affords a perch 27. The door is in normal open and horizontal position. The hen first perches on the door which is held from

downward movement by the bracket 14. The hen then rests upon the perch 27 which relieves the trap door of her weight. She then steps on the nest bottom 9 which, from the weight deposited thereon, will swing downwardly to cause the elements 11 to swing the hinged plates on their pivot 20, causing the door to swing upwardly to closed and latched position. The swinging of the door to closed position is limited by contact of the extending ends of the extensions on the flanges 18 of the hinge plates with the inner faces of the front 13 of the nest. The hen thus automatically locks herself in the nest and cannot release herself therefrom until an attendant swings the latch 23 to release the door.

When the trap nest is employed as an automatic nest the pin 25 is removed to permit the catch 23 to gravitate to vertical position and, therefore, out of door engagement. The hen after entering the nest and laying steps on the perch 27, thus removing her weight from the bottom of the nest. By reference to the dotted lines indicating the door in closed position in Figure 1 it will be seen that the same is swung at a slight angle into the nest and the hen will place her head through the V-shaped opening 16 in the closed door and by a slight forward pressure against the same the door, by its own weight, will return to initial position, thus allowing the hen to leave the nest. The nest is now ready for another hen. The V-shaped notch or opening 16 offers an inducement to the hen to put her head therethrough preparatory to leaving the nest and it also induces her to step upon the perch in order to accomplish this act. The relation of the hole 19 in the hinge with respect to the hinged rod 21 is important and will vary in accordance with the material used and in accordance with the weight of different types of fowls that are to occupy the nest. As the nest is fastened to the walls of the poultry house through ordinary hangers the wall of such house becomes the back of the nest and to clean the nest it is only necessary to grasp the lower front of the nest and pull outwardly, thereby releasing all straw and dirt by gravity. The simple and positive operation of the nest is due to the carefully planned hinged plates and the arrangement of weights and levers; and the hen itself, through a natural process operates the nest without any assistance whatever, thus making the nest absolutely automatic. In actual operation the straw in the nest does not interfere in any way with the operation thereof but, of course, a proper clearance between the straw and operative parts of the nest is maintained. Metal washers are placed between the hinges and the sides of the nest to take up end play and to keep the door centered and, as previously stated, the catch and the hinged plate are each made of angle strips of metal so that they may be cheaply manufactured and easily attached and it is thought that the foregoing description, when read in connection with the accompanying drawings will fully and clearly set forth the simplicity of my construction and the advantages thereof without further detailed description. I do not wish to be restricted to the precise details herein shown and described and, therefore, hold myself entitled to make such changes therefrom as fairly fall within the scope of what I claim.

Having described the invention, I claim:

1. A trap nest having an inclined top, a partially open front, an open back and an open bottom, a hanger on the top for sustaining the nest on a support, a bottom for the nest having its rear end swingably supported, a trap door swingable through the partly open front, a support for holding the door in horizontal position, hinged plates on the edges of the door projecting rearwardly therefrom and pivotally secured to the sides of the nest, hook members carried by the bottom and engaging the hinge plates, a latch plate pivotally secured to one of the sides, having its outer end cut at an angle and provided with a flange, which flange is designed to engage the outer edge of the door when weight is deposited on the floor for swinging the door to closed position, an upper fixed and a lower removable stop element for limiting the swinging of the latch and the hinge plates having extensions to engage the front of the nest for limiting the swinging of the door to closed position.

2. A trap nest having an inclined top, a partially open front, an open back and an open bottom, a hanger on the top for sustaining the nest on a support, a bottom for the nest having its rear end swingably supported, a trap door swingable through the partly open front, a support for holding the door in horizontal position, hinge plates on the edges of the door projecting rearwardly therefrom and pivotally secured to the sides of the nest, hook members carried by the bottom and engaging the hinge plates, a latch plate pivotally secured to one of the sides, having its outer end cut at an angle and provided with a flange, which flange is designed to engage with the outer edge of the door when weight is deposited on the floor for swinging the door to closed position and stop elements for limiting the swinging of the latch and the hinge plates having extensions to engage with the front of the nest to limit the swinging of the door to closed position.

3. A trap nest having an inclined top, a partially open front, an open back and an open bottom, a hanger on the top for sustining the nest on a support, a bottom for the nest having its rear end swingably support-

ed, a trap door swingable through the partly open front, a support for holding the door in horizontal position, hinge plates on the edges of the door projecting rearwardly therefrom and pivotally secured to the sides of the nest, hook members carried by the bottom and engaging the hinge plates, a latch plate pivotally secured to one of the sides, having its outer end cut at an angle and provided with a flange, which flange is designed to engage with the outer edge of the door when weight is deposited on the floor for swinging the door to closed position and stop elements for limiting the swinging of the latch and the hinge plates having extensions to contact with the front of the nest for limiting the swinging of the door to closed position, and a perch arranged transversely of the nest adjacent the door opening.

4. A trap nest comprising a substantially restangular member having a downwardly inclined top, an open rear and bottom and a partially open front, slotted plates secured on the top adjacent to the rear thereof designed to be engaged by hooks for removably supporting the nest on a wall or like vertical member, a cleat secured to the sides and rear and lower portion of the nest, a bottom having openings in the rear thereof, pins entering the cleat and freely received in the openings, an angle flange on the outer end of the bottom, wires secured thereto and having hooked ends, an angle plate having its vertical flange secured to the front of the nest, a trap door resting on the horizontal flange of the plate when the door is in open position and said door having its outer edge notched, angle plates secured to the edges of the door, and having their vertical flanges projecting into the nest, a pivot rod passing through said flanges and the hooked ends of the wire members engaging said flanges, a roost in the nest opposite the door opening and a pivotally supported gravity influenced catch on one side of the nest to engage with the door for holding the same in closed position.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

STEPHEN YUHAS.