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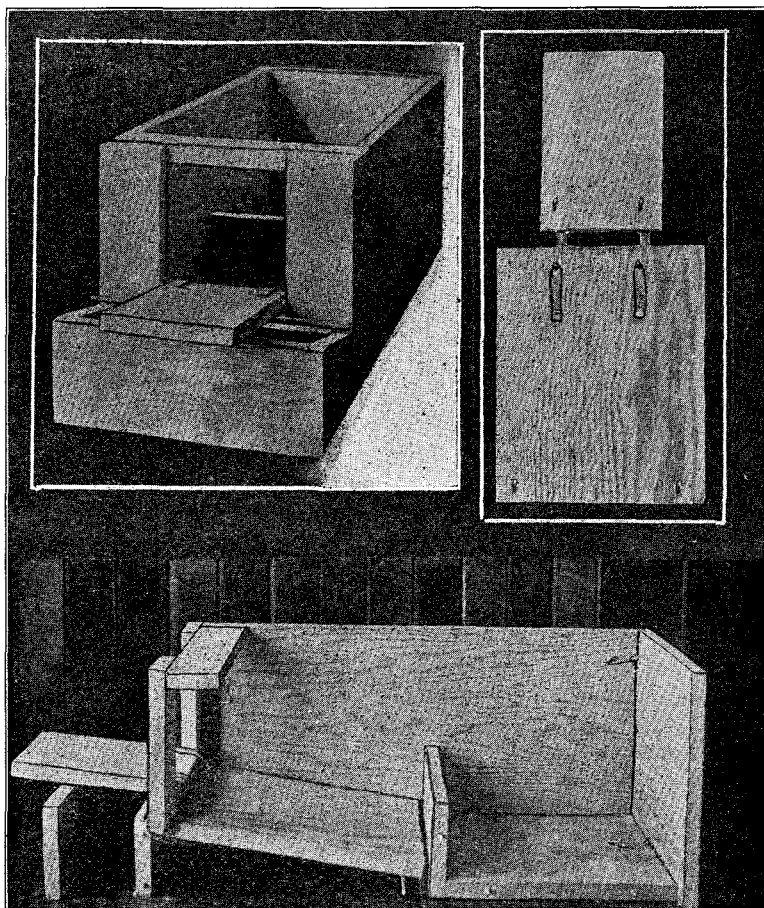
DEPARTMENT OF POULTRY HUSBANDRY

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OREGON STATION TRAP-NEST

BY

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TRAP-NEST.—1. Front view with door open. 2. Door and trip-board.
3. Side view with one side removed.

High egg production is not a characteristic of any one breed of fowls. The trap-nest has demonstrated this. There are good and poor layers in all breeds.

The only certain method of separating the good layers from the poor is to use the trap-nest and keep a daily record of eggs laid. To keep a trap-nest record of a flock of hens requires both time and labor; but the results amply justify the effort.

It is desirable, of course, to keep a full year's record for each hen, but if that is not possible, a record for part of the year would be valuable. For instance, a record of the first six months of laying, beginning probably in November, would show which were good winter producers. Those that wouldn't produce well during the first six months would not be good fowls to keep for breeding, and they could be killed off. If it isn't possible to keep a six months' record, then a three months' record would be valuable. Hens that produced well for three months, beginning November, would be the most profitable fowls in the flock, and they should be retained for breeding early winter layers.

It has been shown in experiments at the Oregon Experiment Station that the poor layers during the first year are usually the poor layers the second year. If at the end of a full year's record all hens that had laid less than 100 to 120 eggs were to be killed off, it would save the farmer's keeping a lot of fowls at a loss for another year. From 25 to 50 percent of the fowls in the average flock do not pay for their keep.

The type of trap-nest described herein, has been thoroughly tested and we know of none better. It has been in use 16 years. When properly made, it fully answers the essential requirements of a good trap-nest; namely simplicity, cheapness, and accuracy in operation.

The hen, of course, must be numbered by means of a leg band. The best leg band is one that has raised figures, which makes it easy to read.

As the hen enters the trap-nest her weight closes the door, making it impossible for her to get out or for another hen to enter; since the opening into the nest is made just large enough for one hen at a time to enter.

It is necessary to visit the nests three or four times during the day to release the hens. There should be enough nests, of course, so that some will always be vacant, otherwise eggs are liable to be laid on the floor. For a flock of fifty hens, ten or twelve nests will be sufficient, if they are visited often enough.

The nests may be built singly or in groups. They may be set in the wall of the house, or they may be set inside the wall. They may also be made and set up outside, separate from the house. It is sometimes an advantage to release the hens from the top instead of through the door. This can be done where there is only one tier of nests. Occasionally a hen is slow in coming to the door to be let out, and by pulling the nest out or raising the cover, the operation of releasing the hens may be more quickly performed. We have found that with the small active breeds there is not much trouble on this score. They come quickly to the door. The heavier breeds like the Plymouth Rocks

usually take their time in coming out and sometimes have to be pulled out. Where they can be reached from the top this trouble is overcome.

The dimensions given in this bulletin are for small fowls and medium-sized fowls up to not more than six pounds. It will be necessary to add an inch or two to the dimensions for the large breeds and increase the size or width of opening for the door.

HOW TO MAKE IT

The trap-nest can be made by anyone who can use a saw and drive a nail. It can all be cut out of a 12" board, 10' long. The material consists of:

- 1 board 1"x12"x10'
- 6 screw eyes No. 210 Bright.
- 2 pieces of iron rod $\frac{3}{16}$ "x12"
- 2 pieces of belt lacing 9"x $\frac{1}{2}$ "

The diagram shows how the nest may be cut out of the board. The shaded portions are the waste pieces of the board. The solid black lines show where the board is to be cut. When cutting the sides apart it will be necessary to cut only as far as "X," then split the boards apart, after which cut out the required angle.

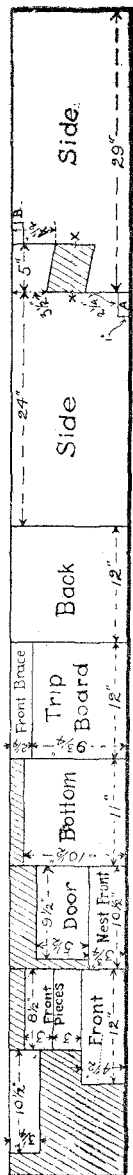
After nailing together, turn the nest on its side and bore the holes in the sides for the $\frac{3}{16}$ " iron rod. The holes are 1" from the bottom and $1\frac{1}{4}$ " from the nest front.

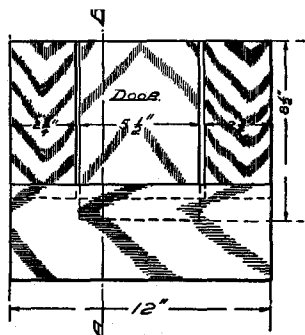
On the bottom of the trip-board, put a screw eye $\frac{3}{8}$ " from the end and 1" from each side. At the other end of the trip-board, bore $\frac{3}{8}$ " holes, 1" from one end and 3" from each side.

On the bottom and at each side of the door put in a screw eye $1\frac{1}{2}$ " from the end and $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the sides. On the upper side tack two belt-lacing strips using a small staple or nail for each. The end of the strap will be 2" from the end and $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the side of the door.

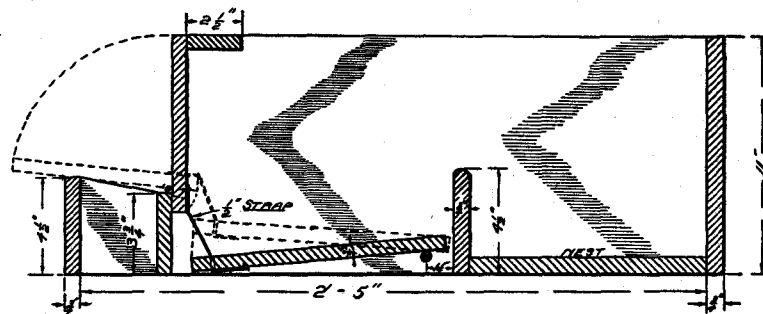
Place the door in front of the trip board, the screw eyes down; push the belt-lacing strips through the holes in the trip-board; turn the boards over and draw the strips up tight, then bend the door back over the trip-board until there is full $\frac{3}{4}$ " between the boards when laid flat; the strap should then be tacked to the lower side of the trip-board.

The door and trip-board are put in place by pushing the iron rods through the sides and the screw eyes. Care should be taken in placing the screw eyes in the proper places. The screw eyes may be adjusted in order to make the door balance properly.

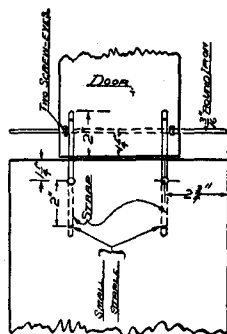




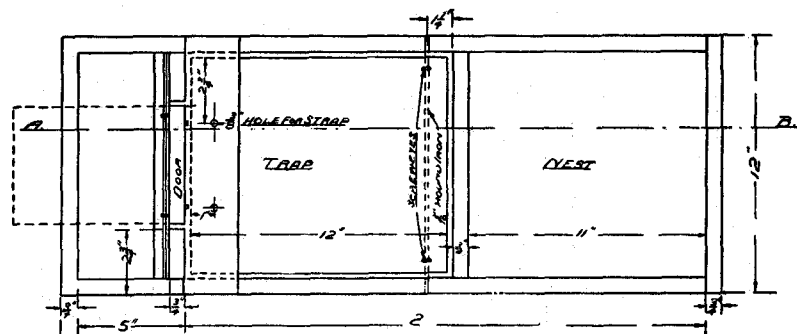
FRONT ELEVATION



SECTION AA



DETAILS OF TRAP DOOR



PLAN

Plan of Oregon Station Trap-nest