

# United States Patent Office.

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Letters Patent No. 113,461, dated April 4, 1871.

## IMPROVEMENT IN BIRD-CAGE MATS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

I, ISAAC A. SINGER, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain Improvements in Mats for Bird-Cages, of which the following is a specification.

### *Nature and Objects of the Invention.*

My invention relates to mats to be placed in the bottoms of cages for birds, and consists in certain improvements upon the "improvement in paper for use in the bottoms of bird-cages," for which Letters Patent of the United States were granted to Jasper H. Singer February 7, 1871.

My improvement consists in the combination, with cloth or other fibrous material, of bird-seed or other food, attached thereto by means of a farinaceous paste, and either with or without the admixture of sand or gravel, for the purpose of furnishing to the birds an additional inducement to pick and scratch upon the mat, substantially as hereinafter set forth.

Second, the combination, with gravel or food and a farinaceous paste or cement, of cloth, either felted or woven, and either with or without paper attached thereto, for the purpose of preventing the birds from picking the mat to pieces, substantially as hereinafter set forth.

### *General Description.*

In the preparation of my improved mat for bird-cages I prefer to make the base of the mat of cotton-cloth, pasted upon paper, and to attach the seed and sand or gravel to the surface of the cloth with common paste, made from either a wheat or rice-flour. This mode of making the base of the mat of a combination of paper and cloth has the advantages that, while the paper gives the necessary stiffness, the cloth, forming the upper surface, by its toughness prevents the birds from picking it to pieces, as they might do

to some extent if this upper surface of the base of the mat were paper instead of cloth. It also prevents the mat from being destroyed by the water which may be thrown upon it by the birds.

It is obvious, however, that the advantage last mentioned would be realized by making the base of the mat of cloth alone and attaching to it the gravel or food in the manner stated; and this latter construction may be adopted where the flexibility of the mat so constructed would not be an objection.

The combination of the food with the mat, as above described, has the advantage of causing the birds to pick and scratch more upon the mat for the purpose of obtaining this food, and furnishes them an additional inducement to healthful exercise.

In general I prefer to combine fine gravel with bird-seed or other suitable food, in equal or any other proportions that may be deemed desirable or suit the choice of the users.

### *Claims*

I claim as my invention—

1. The combination, in a mat for bird-cages, of cloth or other fibrous material, bird-seed, either mixed with sand or gravel or not, and a farinaceous paste or cement, substantially as hereinafter set forth.

2. The combination, in a mat for bird-cages, of felt or woven cloth, either pasted upon paper or not, sand or gravel, or bird-seed or other food, and farinaceous paste or cement, substantially as hereinbefore set forth.

ISAAC A. SINGER.

Witnesses:

THOS. P. HOW,  
WM. A. DONELLY.