Nov. 12, 1957 P. H. JONES 2,812,608

GOOSE DECOY

Filed March 18, 1954

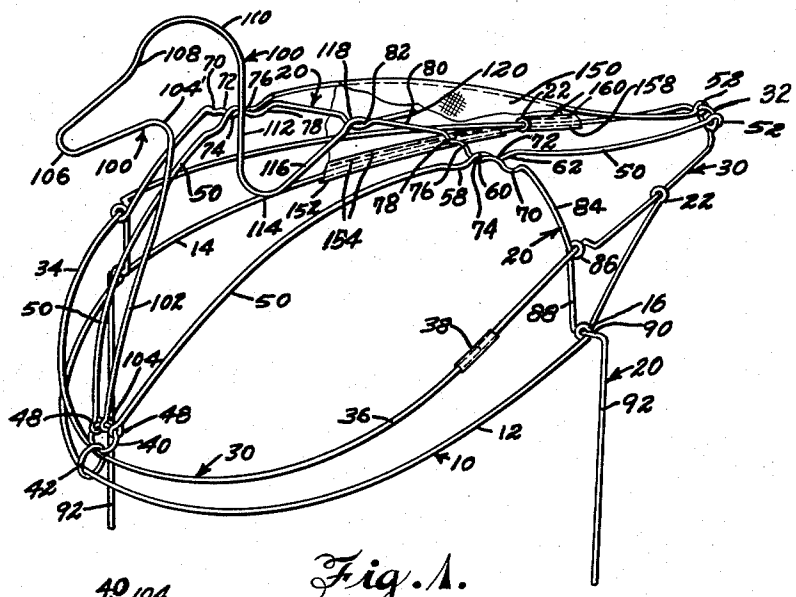


Fig. 1.

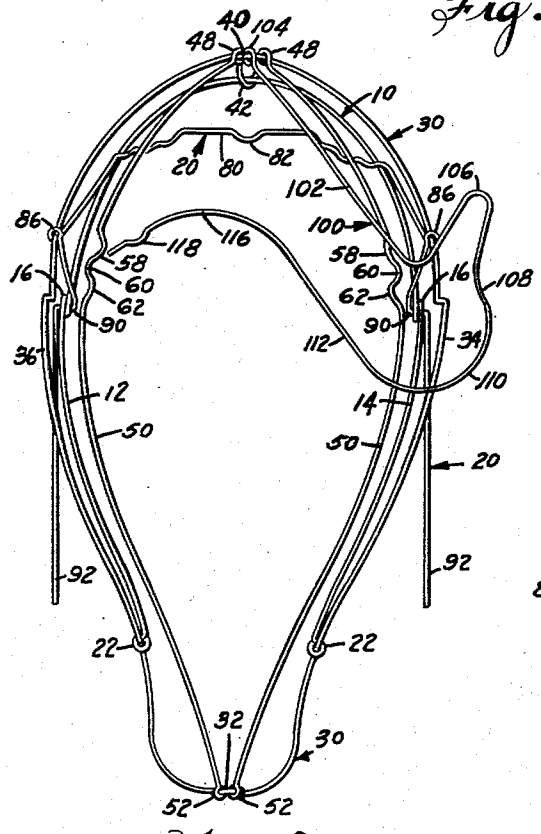


Fig. 2.

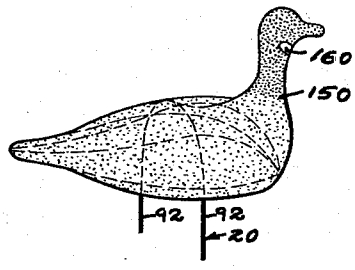


Fig. 3.

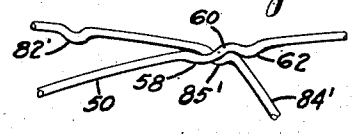


Fig. 4.

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GOOSE DECOY

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5 Claims. (Cl. 43—3)

This invention relates to goose decoys and more particularly it is an object of this invention to provide an improved collapsible goose decoy.

It is an object of this invention to provide a goose decoy having a very realistic shape as seen from the air and for this reason to provide it with upper body portions of realistic convex curvature and preferably tapering rearwardly to tail end portions of concave curvature.

A further object of the invention is to provide a goose decoy achieving this appearance with a minimum of costly construction and for this reason having an open bottom.

A particular object of the invention is to provide the shape described with the use of an inexpensive wire frame, the frame folding into a substantially flat shape for the convenience of carrying many decoys under the arm of the hunter.

Yet another object is to provide a goose decoy which can be quickly and easily opened into shape for use, this being made possible through the use of a transverse member adapted to be pivoted into use position conveniently and easily by pressing it into place with the hand extended through the open bottom of the decoy.

A further object is to provide a goose decoy having two leg members adapted to be stuck into the ground to provide the goose decoy with great stability in the wind.

A further object of the invention is to provide a silhouette shaped head portion in a goose decoy, rather than a three-dimensional head portion, in this way achieving economy and without loss of effectiveness inasmuch as geese flying in from a great height cannot see a head clearly against the background of the body, except when they are coming in from the side, and from the side, the two-dimensional head looks sufficiently realistic. In addition to economy, the flat silhouette head is a compromise with realism to achieve a flatter, more compact unit when collapsed.

A particular object is to provide a goose decoy whereby there are no loose parts to become lost, as the parts of which are all connected together.

Yet a further object is to provide a goose decoy of wire frame construction covered with cloth, the construction being such that the outer cover is pulled tightly against the frame member when the decoy is opened whereby the cover, being taut, adds to the rigidity of the construction.

Another object of my invention is to achieve the desired shape and the desired collapsibility through the use of the principle of a plurality of longitudinally extending members, the upper ones of which are pivotally secured at the front and tail ends for collapsibility and also through the use of a single transverse member pivotally attached to opposite sides of a horizontally disposed longitudinal member.

Yet another object is to provide a construction in which the transverse member springs into place and is

held in place by a means of cooperating bends forming in effect notches in the wire of the longitudinal and transverse members, and thereby giving rigidity to the frame in and of itself entirely apart from that which is supplied by the fabric cover.

Other and further objects and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following detailed description, drawings and claims the scope of the invention not being limited to the drawings themselves as the drawings are only for the purpose of illustrating a way in which the principles of this invention can be applied.

Other embodiments of the invention utilizing the same or equivalent principles may be used and structural changes may be made as desired by those skilled in the art without departing from the present invention and the purview of the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the goose decoy of this invention shown with the major portion of its cover removed to illustrate the construction of the frame.

Figure 2 is a top plan view of a decoy shown in a collapsed position with all parts lying in approximately a horizontal plane.

Figure 3 is a perspective view showing the goose decoy from the side and with the cover in place for illustrating its appearance when in use.

Figure 4 is a modified form of a transverse frame member, partially shown with an adjacent portion of a longitudinal frame member.

The goose decoy of this invention comprises a first horizontal member **10** which latter has two longitudinally extending portions **12** and **14** at the sides thereof, the portions **12** and **14** being formed from a single integral piece of wire.

Approximately at the middle of the decoy, but preferably slightly forward thereof, the portions **12** and **14** are provided with loops **16** which latter serve to receive a transverse wire frame member **20** therethrough.

The rearward ends of the portions **12** and **14** are each looped as at **22** about a second approximately horizontally disposed frame member **30**.

The frame member **30** is disposed above the frame member **10** and those sections of the portions **12** and **14** which are disposed between the loops **16** and **22** extend at a slant upwardly to the frame member **30**. The loops **22** are disposed a short distance forwardly of the rearwardmost or tail end of the decoy at which latter the frame member **30** has a loop **32** of large size interconnecting the side portions **34** and **36** of the frame member **30**.

The side portions **34** and **36** of the wire frame member **30** are preferably of one integral piece of wire and the ends of the piece are joined together by a jointing sleeve **38** which latter is preferably disposed midway on one side **36** thereof.

The forward end of the member **30** is provided with a second loop **40** at the point at which the side portions **34** and **36** join together.

A ring **42** extends through the loop **40** and downwardly about the forward end of the horizontal frame member **10**.

The loop **40** extends upwardly from the frame member **30** and is adapted to receive thereon the loops **48** of the forward ends of two longitudinally extending upper frame members **50**.

The upper frame members **50** extend rearwardly to the tail end of the decoy and are secured by loops **52** pivotally to the loop **32**.

The longitudinal frame members **50** are of convex curvature as are the frame members **10** and **30**.

Just forwardly of a mid-point between the forward and

rearward ends of the decoy each frame member **50** is provided with a downwardly bent portion **58** disposed forwardly of an upwardly bent portion **60** which latter is itself connected to the downwardly bent portion **62**. The upwardly bent portion **60** is preferably not disposed above the uppermost portions of the adjacent sections of the longitudinally wire frame member **50**.

The purpose of the bends **58**, **60** and **62** is to cooperate with complementally bent portions of the transverse frame member **20**. The latter has a downwardly bent portion **70** disposed outwardly from an upwardly bent portion **72** which latter is connected to a downwardly bent portion **74**. The downwardly bent portion **74** is connected to an upwardly bent portion **76** disposed next inwardly therefrom. The upwardly bent portion **76** is connected to a downwardly bent portion **78** disposed next inwardly therefrom. The downwardly bent portion **78** is connected to a relatively smooth portion **80**, which latter extends inwardly to a downwardly bent portion **82**, which latter is disposed in the transverse center of the upper back of the decoy.

A repetition of the curvatures **70**, **72**, **74**, **76** and **78** is also found on the other side of the decoy on the opposite side of the center downwardly bent portion **82**.

The transverse frame member **20** is provided with an upper central or connecting portion connecting two downwardly extending portions having upper parts **84** which extend from the bent portion **70** downwardly to loops **86**. From the loops **86** intermediate parts **88** of the downwardly extending portions of the transverse frame member **20** extend downwardly to a horizontal portion **90** which latter extends outwardly and connects to legs or lowermost parts **92** of the downwardly extending portions of the transverse frame member **20**. The lowermost parts or legs **92** extend vertically downwardly and are offset outwardly from the portions **88**. As thus described it will be seen that the two side portions of the member **20** which are on each side of the center depression or bend **82** are identical and for this reason similar parts are given identical numbers.

As best seen in Figure 1, when the transverse member **20** is in position in the notches **60**, the upper longitudinal frame members **50** each become, in effect, the hypotenuse of rigid right triangles, the frame members **34** and **36** forming the bases, and the transverse member **20** being the third side. Thus, the upper longitudinal members **50** in reality become braces to hold the legs **92** firmly, and the notches **60** insure that the necessary stability and rigidity of the legs **92** will be maintained, when the decoys are placed in a position where they may be subjected to winds of high velocity.

The head of the decoy has a frame formed of a single piece of wire **100**. The wire **100** has a portion **102** extending upwardly from a loop **104** at its lower end. The loop **104** is disposed about the loop **40** for pivotal connection therewith. The portion **102** extends along the forward line of the neck of the goose upwardly and is bent forwardly as seen at **104'** so as to form a forwardly and then rearwardly extending portion **106** simulating the outline of the bill of the goose.

At the rearward end of the upper portion of the bill portion **106**, the head wire **100** curves upwardly sharply as seen at **108** then extends rearwardly and downwardly in a convex curve as seen at **110** joining a rear side portion **112** which latter extends downwardly to form the back side of the neck.

The lower end of the portion **112** is connected to a curved portion **114** having a concave upper side and the latter is connected to a rearwardly and somewhat upwardly extending portion **116**, which latter extends backwardly to an upwardly bent portion **118**, which is adapted to fit across the top of and in the downwardly bent portion **82** of the transverse frame member **20**.

The head wire generally indicated at **100** extends in the portion **120** a short distance rearwardly from the upwardly bent portion **118**.

As thus described, it will be seen that a frame is provided capable of simulating the outline of a goose. The cover of the decoy is shown only partially in Figure 1 at **150**. The cover **150** extends across the frame members **50** and downwardly across the frame members **30** and **10**, being looped around the lower frame member **10** as best seen at **152** in Figure 1, stitching being provided as seen at **154** along the upper side of the looped hem **152**, whereby the cover is fastened by the hem **152** to the lowermost frame member **10**.

Rearwardly of the frame member **10** the cover is provided with other hem portions **158** which latter are stitched as shown at **160** about those portions of the frame member **30** which extend rearwardly from the loop **22**.

In operation it will be seen that when the frame is in collapsed position as shown in Figure 2, all parts are disposed in substantially a horizontal plane. At such a time, the cover will rest loosely across the top of the frame.

When the hunter desires to set up the decoy, the transverse frame member **20** is raised and moved rearwardly at its upper side for pressing the longitudinally extending portions of the other frame members outwardly and upwardly until they reach their preferred position with the downwardly extending depressions or bends **74** of the transverse frame member **20** disposed in engagement with and interlocking with the upwardly extending bends **60** of the frame members **50**.

When the frame members are in this interlocked position, the cover is taut because the cover is of a size and shape for being drawn taut when the frame is in this position. It is the tautness of the cloth covering that holds the flat head portion in an erect and very rigid position.

When the hunter desires to set the decoy in place, the legs **92** are easily and quickly pushed into the mud or sand, the presence of two legs providing considerable needed stability in the wind.

When the hunter desires to remove the decoy, he can easily reach inside the open bottom thereof to pull the transverse frame member **20** forward, thereby collapsing the decoy into position shown in Figure 2.

As best seen in Figure 3, the cover **150** can be provided with a portion **160** under the neck of lighter color to simulate the appearance of a goose.

In Figure 4 a modified form of the transverse frame member is shown, the modified form being given the number **84'** to signify its similarity in most respects to the frame member **84**. The member **84'** differs in only one respect to the member **84** in Figure 1. This respect is in that the member **84'** has an inwardly bent portion **85'** forming a recess on its outer side in substitution for the several bends of the member **84**. This single bend has the advantage over the curvatures **70**, **72**, **74**, **76** and **78** of the frame member **84** in that it is simpler and eliminates an undesirable bump on the back of the decoy. It will be understood that another bend **85'** would appear on the opposite side of the member **84'** in the same way that the curvatures, **70**, **72**, **74**, **76** and **78** are repeated on the right as well as the left hand side.

The frame member **84'** has a center depression **82'** similar to the depression **82** in the center of the frame member **84**.

From the foregoing description, it is thought to be obvious that a goose decoy constructed in accordance with my invention is particularly well adapted for use, by reason of the convenience and facility with which it may be assembled and operated, and it will also be obvious that my invention is susceptible of some change and modification without departing from the principles and spirit thereof, and for this reason I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself to the precise arrangement

and formation of the several parts herein shown in carrying out my invention in practice.

I claim:

1. A decoy having a portion for simulating the head of a goose and having a body portion in the shape of the upper portion of a body of a goose, the bottom of said body portion being open, said body portion comprising an outer cover and a frame attached to said outer cover and disposed on the inner side thereof, said frame being composed of a plurality of longitudinally extending members, said frame members being vertically spaced apart and being attached together in a manner for collapsing from the shape of said body into a shape much more flat and a transverse frame member having two downwardly extending portions disposed one on each side of the decoy and having an upper center connecting portion interconnecting said two downwardly extending portions, said transverse frame member being pivotally attached to the lowermost ones of said longitudinal frame members on the right and left hand sides of said body, said transverse frame member being adapted to be pivoted upwardly into a substantially vertical position and in the vertical position pressing outwardly against the inner sides of said longitudinal frame members for holding them outwardly in the contour of a body of a goose, the center and upper portion of said transverse frame member being adapted to be pivoted forwardly and downwardly toward the lowermost ones of said longitudinal frame members to collapse the frame members whereby the decoy is much more flat than when in use.

2. A decoy having a body portion in the shape of the upper portion of the body of a goose, said body portion being formed of an inner frame and a flexible and collapsible outer cover attached to and extending tightly over said frame when said frame is in a later described use position, said inner frame comprising a plurality of longitudinally extending frame members connected together at the forward and rearward ends of the body, said longitudinal frame members being of a generally convex curved shape on their outer sides for simulating the shape of a goose, a first two of said longitudinal frame members being disposed in planes approximately horizontal and being disposed on opposite sides of said body and being rigidly attached together at their forward and rearward ends, and a second two of said longitudinal frame members being disposed above said first two frame members and being pivotally secured to said first two approximately horizontal frame members at the forward and rearward ends of the latter in a manner permitting the upward and the downward pivoting of said second two longitudinal frame members from positions in upwardly extending planes downwardly and to respective sides whereby said second two upper frame members are adapted to lie substantially in a horizontal plane above said first two frame members when the frame is collapsed, and a transverse frame member adapted to be disposed in use position in substantially a vertical plane transversely of said longitudinal members, said transverse frame member being of approximately an inverted U-shape and having a central section and downwardly extending side portions, means pivotally securing said downwardly extending side portions to said approximately horizontally disposed lowermost of the frame members respectively at the right and left hand sides of the body respectively, and the central section of said transverse frame member engaging against the inner sides of said second two longitudinal frame members and pressing outwardly against said second two longitudinal frame members when said transverse member is in a substantially upright use position, the pivotal connection between said transverse frame member and said longitudinal frame members being such as to permit the forward and downward folding of said transverse frame member substantially into a horizontal plane above said first frame members for storage, and said decoy having a head and neck frame portion, and means connecting a forward lower part of said head and neck frame portion pivotally to the forward ends of said first two longitudinal frame portions and a rearward lower end of said head and neck frame portion being disposed against and upheld by the upper side of said transverse member when all parts are in use position, said head and neck frame portion folding downwardly and also backwardly into a position lying substantially horizontally and above positions of respective ones of said first and second longitudinal frame members, said cover having a head portion adapted to receive said head frame portion therein.

3. The decoy described in claim 2 in which said inverted U-shaped transverse member is provided with two attached downwardly extending legs attached to its downwardly extending side portions and which are adapted to be inserted into the ground so as to support the decoy in upright position.

4. The construction defined in claim 2 in which said second two of said longitudinal members are provided with inwardly extending offset portions generally midway between the forward and rearward ends of the said body, and in which said transverse member has downwardly offset portions adapted to receive and engage against said upwardly bent portions of said longitudinal members whereby said engaging offset portions of said transverse frame member and said longitudinal frame members tend to hold said transverse frame member in its use position disposed transversely of said longitudinal frame members for holding said longitudinal frame members outwardly in use position.

5. The construction defined in claim 2 in which said head portion is of a two dimensional shape.

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