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(54) GAME ATTRACTANT

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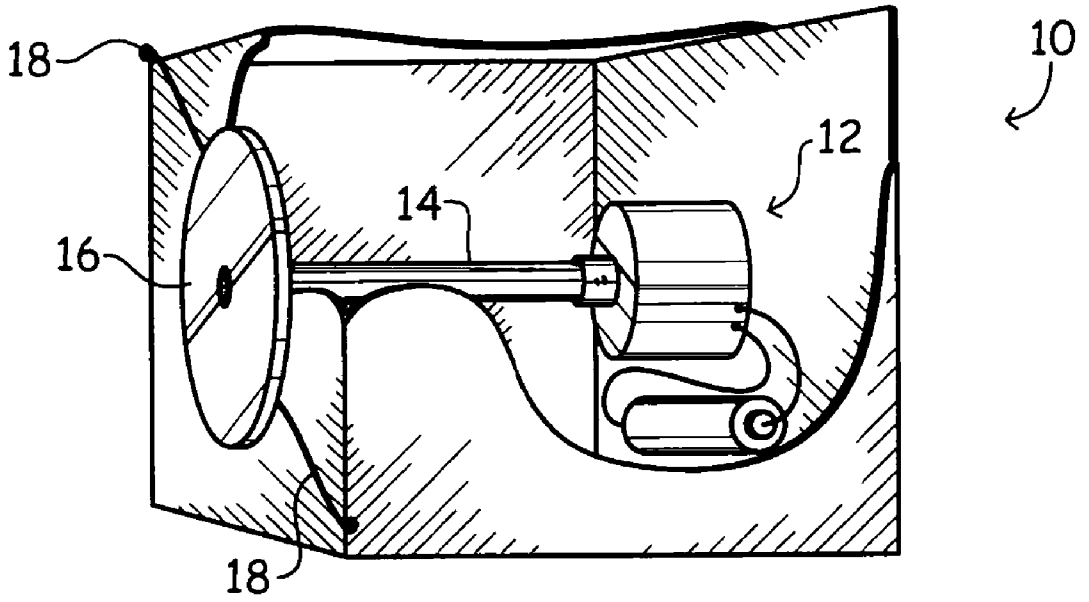
(57) ABSTRACT

A device for generating sounds associated with movements of animals, the device including a movable member operatively associated with a motion generation system and configured to be set in a desired motion by the motion generation system, a hub associated with the movable member, and at least one extension extending from the hub for contact with a desired contact medium to generate sounds associated with movement of animals.



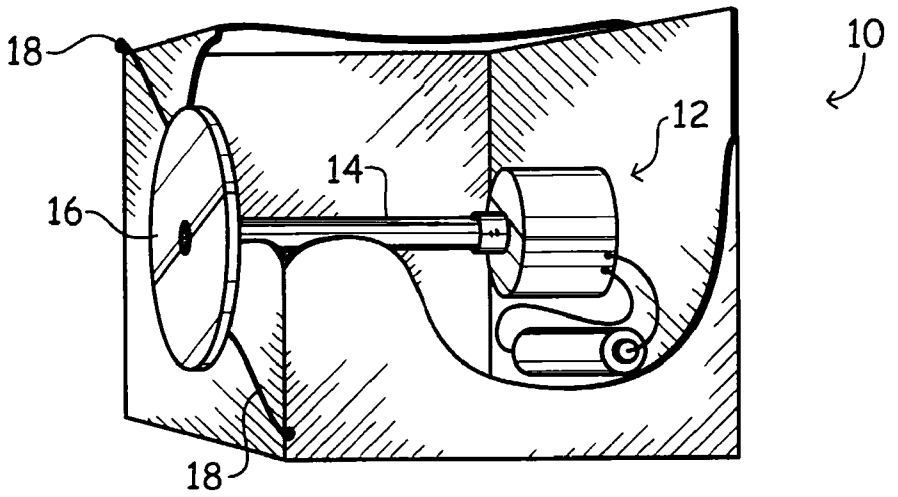


Fig. 1

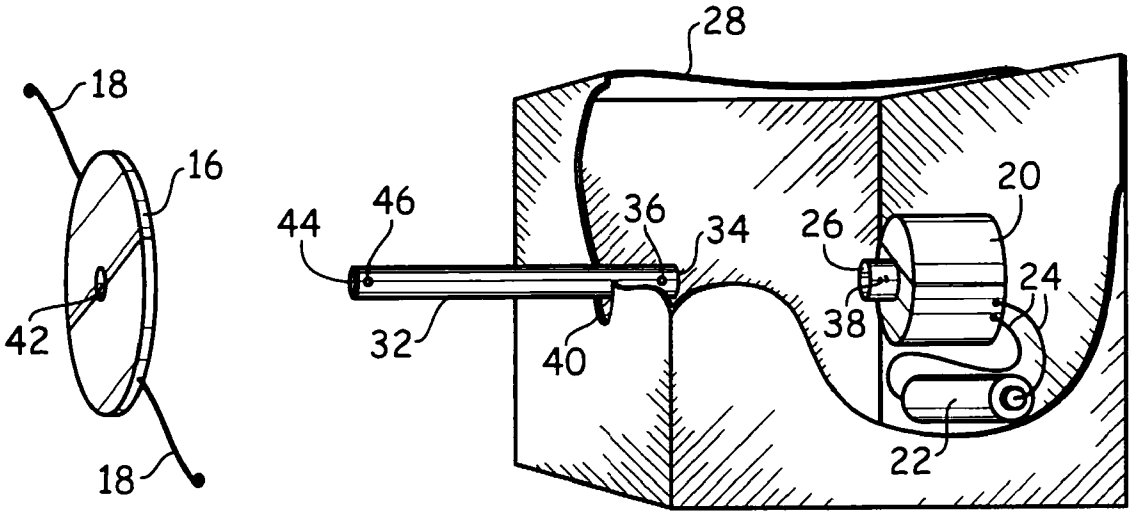


Fig. 2

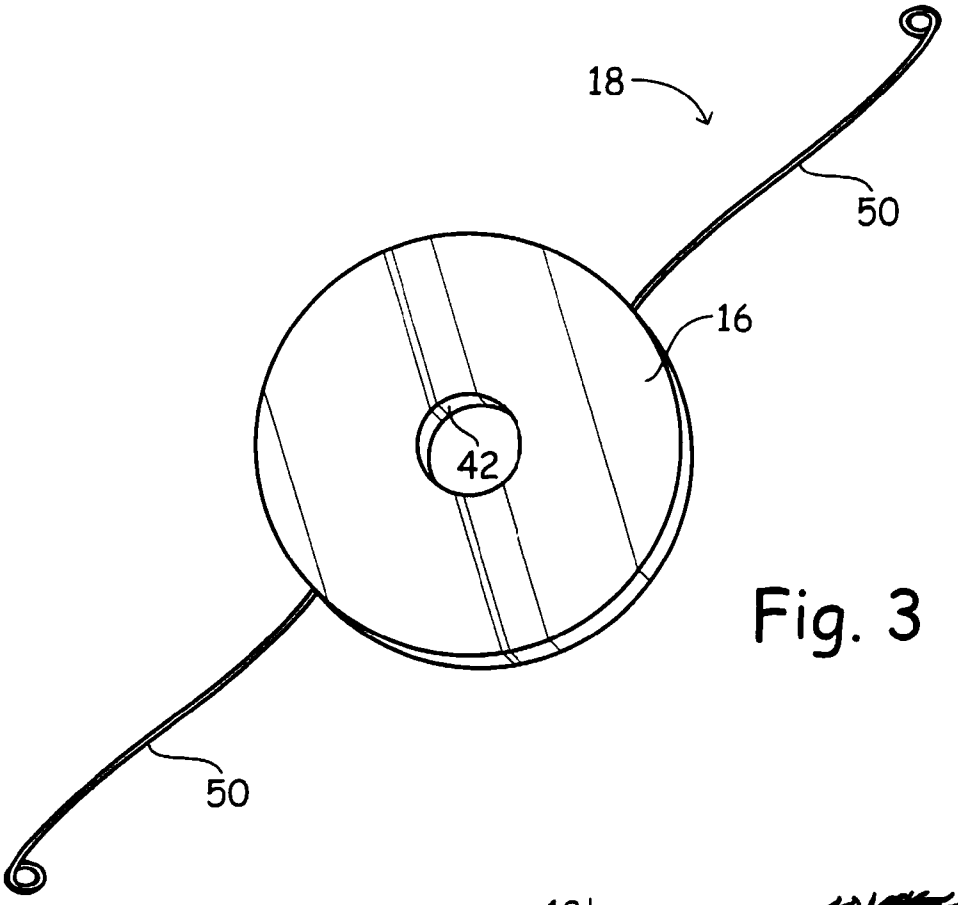


Fig. 3

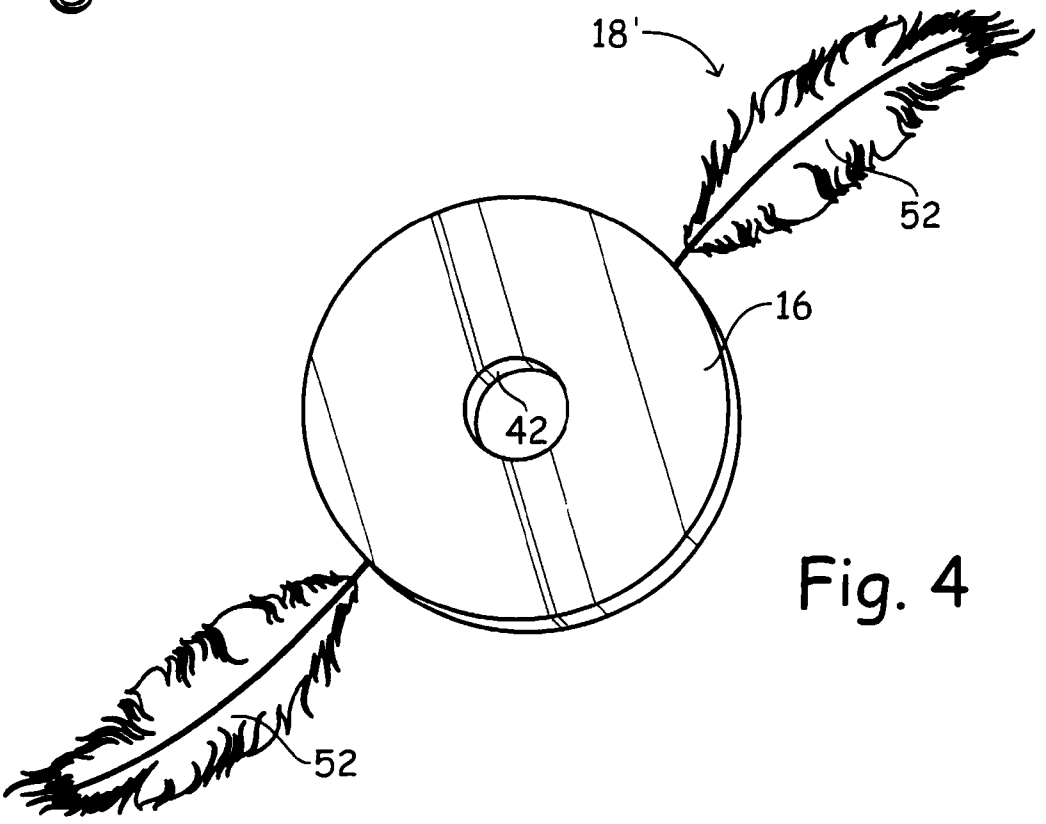


Fig. 4

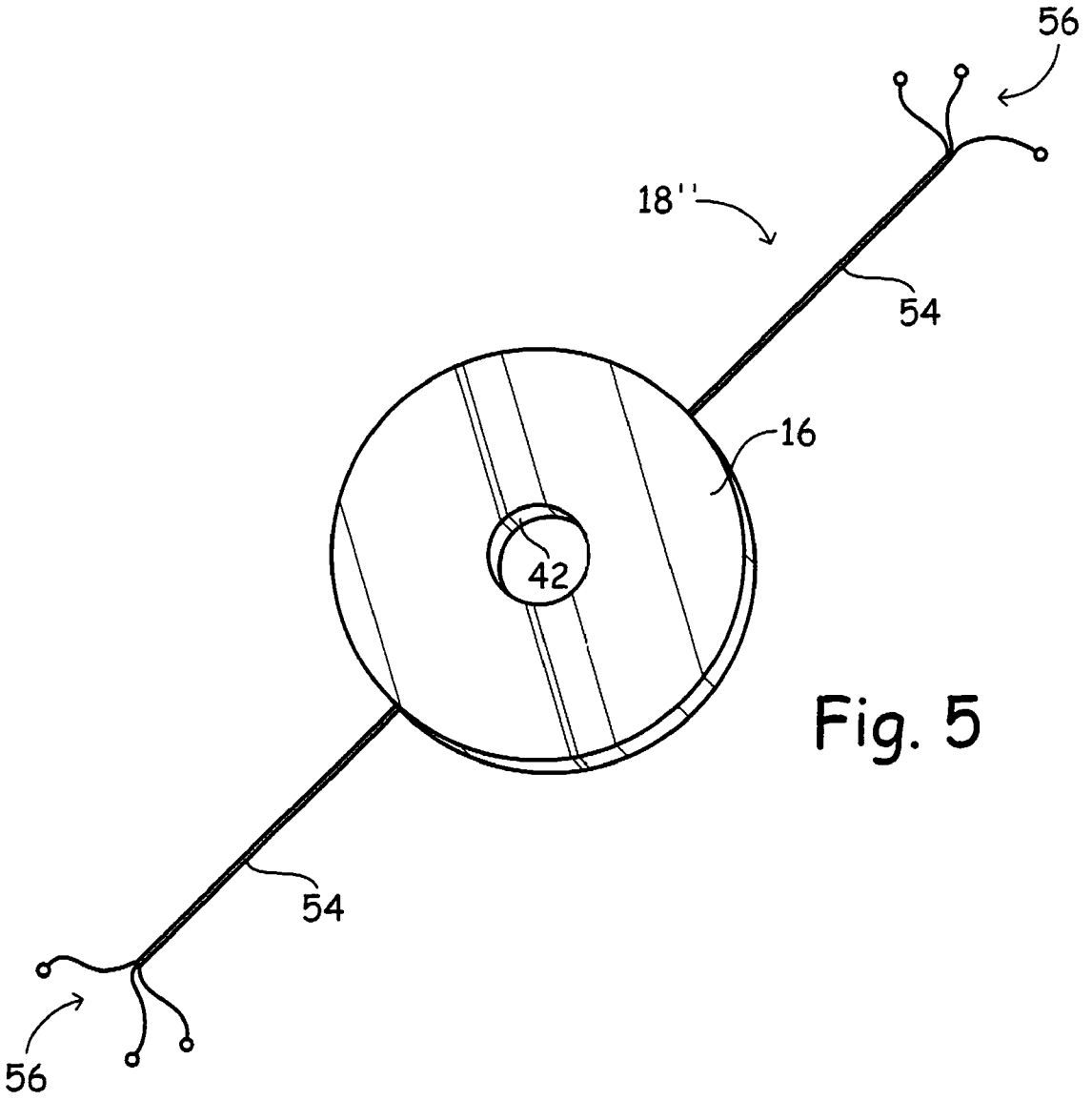


Fig. 5

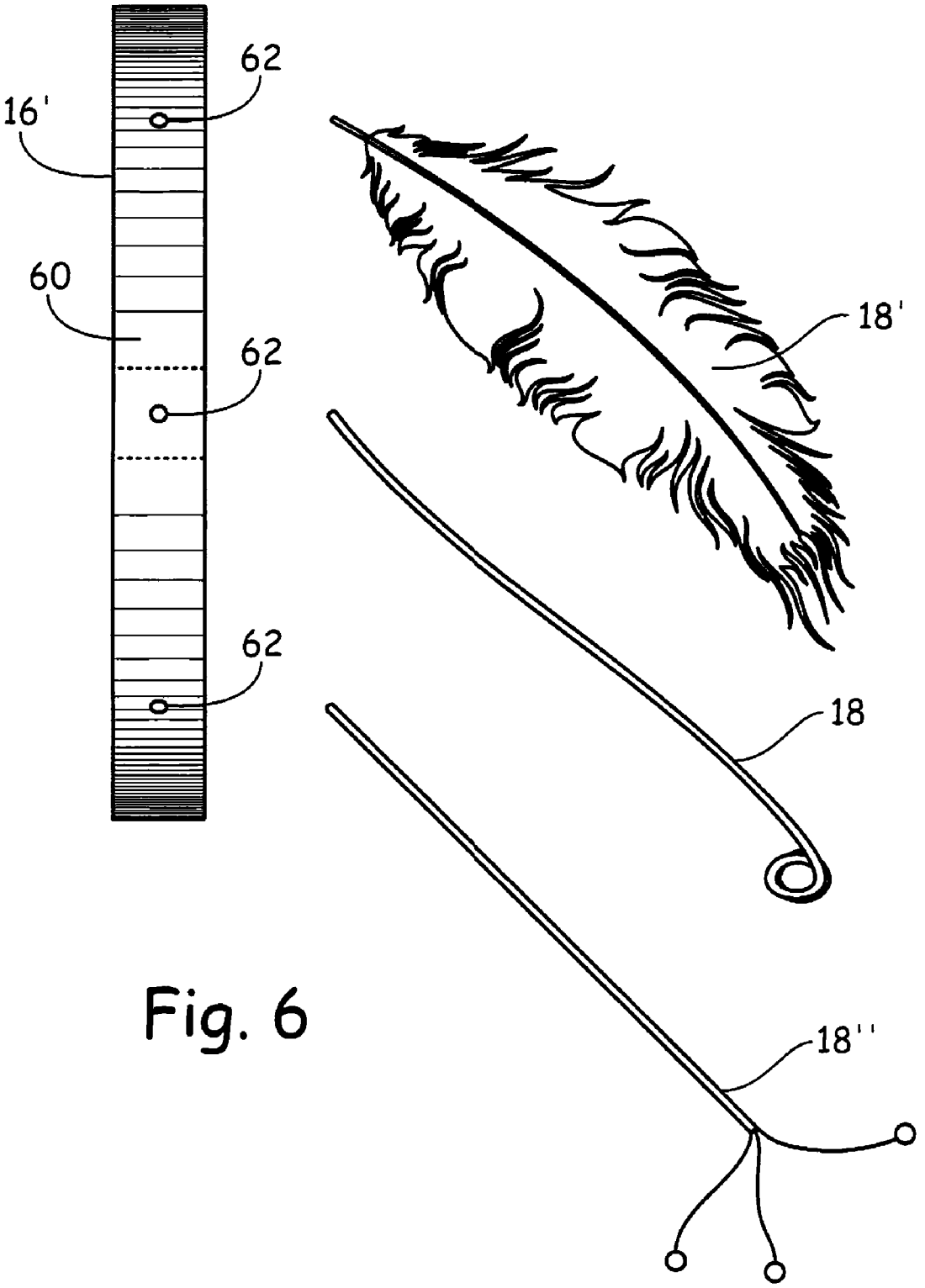


Fig. 6

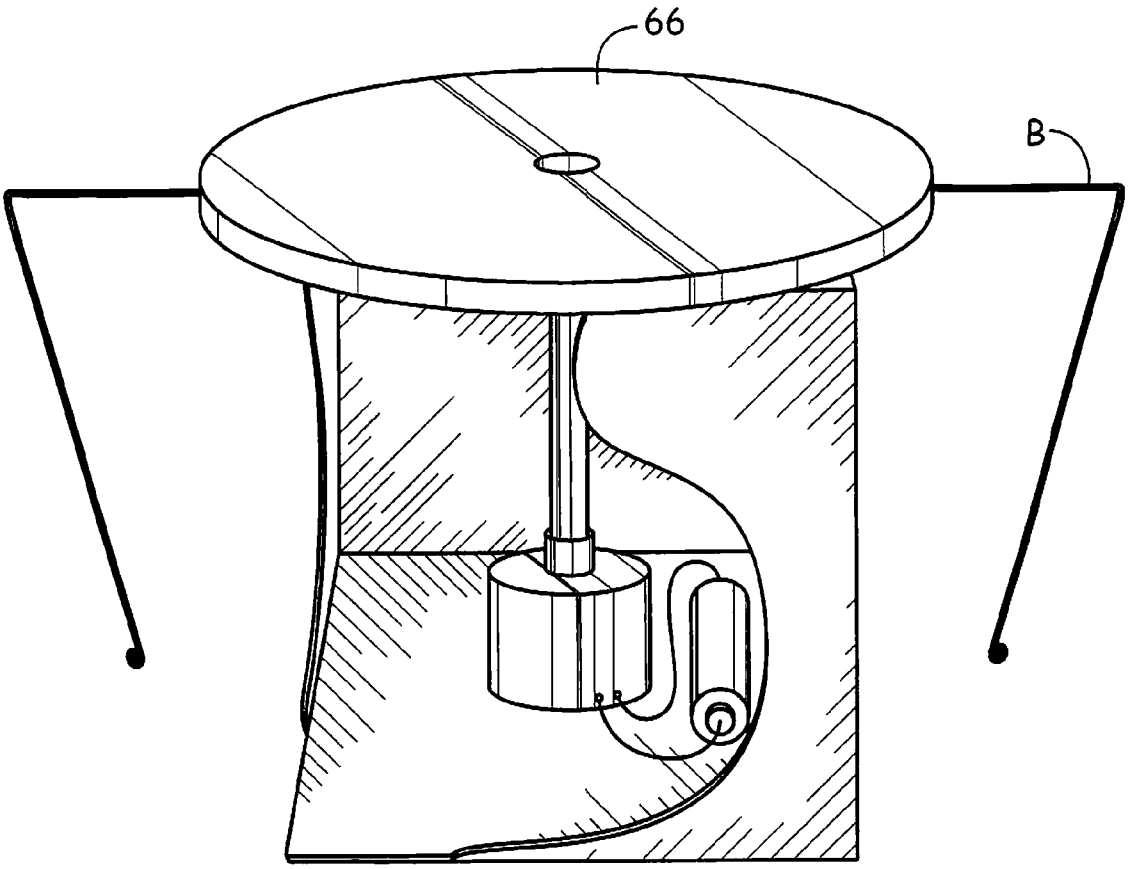


Fig. 7

GAME ATTRACTANT

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This is a continuation-in-part application of co-pending U.S. Application Ser. No. 11,277,444 filed 24 Mar. 2006, and entitled GAME ATTRACTANT, which is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Application Ser. No. 10/419,445 filed 21 Apr. 2003, entitled GAME ATTRACTANT (now U.S. Pat. No. 7,029,362 issued on 18 Apr. 2006).

FIELD

[0002] This invention relates to the field of hunting aids. More particularly, this invention relates to a device for generating natural background noises for enhancing the effectiveness of game calls in attracting game.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Calls simulating an animal noise are often used for attracting game to a hunter. For example, hunters of turkeys often use a call that mimics the vocal sounds of a female turkey in an attempt to attract a male turkey.

[0004] It has been observed that the effectiveness of such vocal calls may be improved if sounds associated with movement of a turkey are provided in conjunction with the vocal sounds, such as by moving a fallen tree branch against the ground to mimic the sound of a turkey rustling through leaves as during feeding.

[0005] As will be appreciated, it is often inconvenient and difficult for a hunter to remain concealed and still while manipulating a tree branch. Also, the movement of the tree branch will immediately proximate the hunter, which is undesirable for concealment purposes.

SUMMARY

[0006] With regard to the foregoing, the present disclosures relates to devices for generating sounds associated with movements of animals.

[0007] In a preferred embodiment, the device includes a movable member operatively associated with a motion generation system and configured to be set in a desired motion by the motion generation system, a hub associated with the movable member, and at least one extension extending from the hub for contact with a desired contact medium to generate sounds associated with movement of animals.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0008] Further advantages of the invention are apparent by reference to the detailed description when considered in conjunction with the figures, which are not to scale so as to more clearly show the details, wherein like reference numbers indicate like elements throughout the several views, and wherein:

[0009] FIG. **1** shows a game attractant device according to a preferred embodiment.

[0010] FIG. **2** is an exploded view of the device of FIG. **1**.

[0011] FIGS. **3-5** show a preferred hub having a variety of preferred embodiments.

[0012] FIG. **6** shows an alternate hub to which extensions may be selectively connected.

[0013] FIG. **7** shows a game attractant device according to an alternate preferred embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0014] With initial reference to FIG. **1**, the invention relates to a game attractant device **10** for generating sounds associated with movements of animals. The device **10** is particularly suitable for remotely generating sounds to mimic the sound of a turkey rustling through grass, leaves or other ground debris as during feeding.

[0015] The device **10** includes a motion generation system **12**, a movable member **14**, a hub **16**, and extension members **18**.

[0016] The motion generation system **12** is preferably provided by a motor **20**, preferably an electric motor powered by a power source, such as AA size battery **22** connected to the motor **20** by wiring **24**. Other power sources may also be used, such as a solar power cell. The motor **20** may be of single speed or may include electronic controllers or the like for adjusting and/or varying its rotational speed as may be desired. For use in generating sounds mimicking a turkey or turkeys feeding, the motor **20** preferably has a rotational speed of from about 5 to about 50 rpms. The motor **20** includes a shaft **26** that rotates under the power of the motor **20**. However, it will be understood that the motor **20** may be configured for imparting other motions, such as translational and reciprocal motion.

[0017] The motor **20** and the battery **22** are preferably located within a housing **28**, such as a plastic housing having a removable cover for accessing the battery **22**. The wiring **24** is preferably connected to an on/off switch associated with the motor **20** and partially extending through the housing **28** for access by a user. As will be appreciated, a remotely activatable switch, such as an infrared switch may be utilized instead of the mechanical switch **30**. Also, a timing or other control device may also be incorporated to periodically control the operation of the motor **20**. For example, the motor **20** may be periodically controlled to start or stop motion and/or change the speed thereof.

[0018] The movable member **14** may be provided by the shaft **26** of the motor **20**, provided that the shaft is of sufficient length. However, in a preferred embodiment, the shaft **26** is relatively short and resides within the housing **28** and the movable member **14** is provided by an elongate shaft **32** having and end **34** configured for releasably connecting to the shaft **26** of the motor **20**. For example, the shaft **32** may have a quick release **36**, such as a ball detent, for engaging a bore **38** of the shaft **26**, or vice versa. The shafts **26** and **32** may connect in other ways, such as by threading and the like. The housing **28** includes a suitable aperture or port **40** for passage of the shaft **32**. This is advantageous to enable portability so that the movable member **14** does not protrude for transport and the device may be compactly carried.

[0019] The hub **16** is preferably a wheel-shaped plastic member having a central bore **42** configured for mounting adjacent an end **44** of the shaft **32**. The hub **16** is preferably configured for releasably connecting to the shaft **32**. For example, the end **44** of the shaft **32** may have a quick release

46, such as a ball detent, for engaging the bore **42** of the hub **16**, or vice versa. The hub **16** may also connect in other manners, such as by threading on the end of the shaft **32**.

[**0020**] The hub **16** may be formed on the shaft **32** or be a simple structure for connecting the extension members **18** thereto, such as bores formed on the shaft **32** or adhesive placed on the shaft **32** or the hub **16** may be defined as by portions of the extension members **18** which may be wrapped around the shaft **32**. Thus, it will be understood that the hub **16** is structure which enables connection, either directly or indirectly, of the extension members to the shaft. However, it is preferred that the hub **16** be a separate structure readily detachable from the shaft to facilitate portability and quick change of the extension members **18**, as described more fully below.

[**0021**] The extension members **18** are elongate structures configured for contacting dirt, grass, leaves or other debris on the ground to generate a rustling sound that mimics the sound of a turkey rustling or scratching through a water puddle, dirt, grass, leaves or other ground debris as during feeding. In one preferred embodiment, the extension members **18** are substantially permanently attached to the hub **16**. However, as described in connection with FIG. **6**, the extension members **18** may be removably attachable to the hub **16** to enable a user to select among the number and type of the extension members **18** used.

[**0022**] FIG. **3** shows a preferred configuration of the extension member **18**, having a pair of spring wires **50** extending from opposite locations thereon. The free ends of the wires **50** are preferably bent into a circular tip to provide a blunt end. Alternatively, the wires **50** may be formed of other resilient material that yields under light pressure but yields back to substantially original shape when the force is removed, such as a resilient plastic. This construction is desirable for rustling non-fixed objects, such as leaves, sand, gravel, dirt, and the like, without sweeping them from the site.

[**0023**] FIG. **4** shows an alternate embodiment of extension members **18'**. The extension members **18"** may be provided as by a member **54**, preferably a rigid stick or wire or the like, or a flexible line or cord attached to the hub **16**. Multiple flexible lines **56**, such as monofilament lines, are attached to the fee end, with small beads or the like formed on the ends of the lines. The members **18"** are particularly suitable for making rustling noises in sand, dirt, and leaves.

[**0024**] FIG. **6** shows an alternate embodiment of a hub **16'** that is substantially similar to the hub **16**, except an outer rim **60** thereof is configured for removably attaching one or more of the extension members **18**, **18'**, or **18"**, For example, the rim **60** may include a plurality of apertures **62** configured for receiving, preferably in a friction fit, an end of the extension members. The rim **60** may also be provided as by an elastomeric material or a foam material, such as Styrofoam, into which the ends of the extension members may be penetrated. If desired, the ends of the extension members may be shaped in a point.

[**0025**] FIG. **7** shows an alternate embodiment of a game attractant device **10'** that is substantially similar to the device **10**, except that hub **66** thereof is oriented substantially parallel to the ground. To orient the extension members **18**, **18'**, and **18"** to contact water, the ground, or debris thereon, the extension members preferably include a bend B, preferably about 60 degrees.

[**0026**] The foregoing description of preferred embodiments for this invention has been presented for purposes of illustration and description. It is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise form disclosed. Obvious modifications or variations are possible in light of the above teachings. The embodiments are chosen and described in an effort to provide the best illustrations of the principles of the invention and its practical application, and to thereby enable one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize the invention in various embodiments and with various modifications as are suited to the particular use contemplated. All such modifications and variations are within the scope of the invention as determined by the appended claims when interpreted in accordance with the breadth to which they are fairly, legally, and equitably entitled.

What is claimed is:

1. A device for generating sounds associated with movements of animals, the device comprising: a movable member operatively associated with a motion generation system and configured to be set in a desired motion by the motion generation system, a hub associated with the movable member, and at least one extension member extending from the hub for contact with a desired contact medium to generate sounds associated with movement of animals.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein the movable member comprises a rotatable shaft.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein the motion generation system comprises a motor having a rotatable output shaft.

4. The device of claim 1, wherein the movable member is releasably connectable to the motion generation system.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein the hub is releasably connectable to the movable member.

6. The device of claim 1, wherein the extension members are releasably connectable to the hub.

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