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BIRD CALLER

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6 Claims. (Cl. 46—180)

This invention relates to an improved bird caller particularly adapted for use in calling hawks.

It is a primary aim of this invention to provide a musical device capable of producing two notes when blown which accurately simulate the call of a hawk to thereby attract hawks and also crows which will invariably follow hawks.

It is a further aim of this invention to provide a bird caller including an elastic vibratory sound producing member and means for adjusting the tension of said member to vary the pitch or tone produced.

Still a further aim of the invention is to provide a body portion formed of sections which are yieldably connected and which are provided with means adjacent an end thereof for spacing the sections at said end for varying the volume of the sound.

Still another aim of the invention is to provide a device of the aforementioned character capable of being economically constructed, easy to operate, durable, and provided with means whereby the vibratory sound producing member may be tuned to the sounding bars which form the body portion and automatically retained in tune.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will hereinafter become more fully apparent from the following description of the drawing, which illustrates a preferred embodiment thereof, and wherein:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of the instrument,

Figure 2 is a top plan view of the same,

Figure 3 is an end view in elevation looking toward the mouth piece or inlet end thereof,

Figure 4 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view taken along the line 4—4 of Figure 2, and

Figures 5 and 6 are transverse vertical sectional views taken along the lines 5—5 and 6—6, respectively, of Figure 1.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, wherein like reference characters designate like or corresponding parts throughout the different views, 10 designates generally the instrument in its entirety which includes the body portion, designated generally 11 which is formed of the sounding bars or plates 12 and 13. Bars 12 and 13 are substantially the same width and length and are mounted one above the other and connected adjacent their ends by the elastic bands or strips 14. The adjacent faces of the bars 12 and 13 are concave to provide the longitudinal passage 15 which extends the length of the body 11 and which as best seen in Figures 3, 5 and 6

diminishes in size adjacent the longitudinal edges of the body 11. Bars 12 and 13 may be formed of any suitable material such as metal. The end 16 of the body 11 constitutes the inlet end and mouth piece of the instrument and the end 17 the outlet end thereof. Plate 12 adjacent the outlet end 17 is provided with a threaded bore 18 in which is mounted a set screw 19, the shank end of which is adapted to abut against the inner side of the plate 13 for forcing these ends apart to vary the size of the passage 15 at the outlet end 17. Plate 13 at the inlet end 16 has its concave face bevelled at 20, as seen in Figure 4, to increase the thickness or depth of the passage 15 at the inlet end and so that said end of the passage will converge inwardly for a limited distance, for a purpose which will hereinafter be described.

Mounted on the top and longitudinally of the upper bar 12 is a U-shaped guide member 21 which is secured to the bar 21 by the screw fastenings 22. The upwardly projecting ends of the member 21 are provided with aligned openings 23 in which is journaled a shaft 24 provided adjacent its ends with the openings 25 and 26. A vibratory sounding strip 27, formed of an elastic material such as rubber, extends transversely through the passage 15 adjacent the end 16 and has one end extending through the opening 25. The ends of the strip 27 are tied together as at 28 to form a continuous band. A cotter pin or other fastening 29 is mounted in the opening 26 and engages the outer side of one end of the member 21, which is disposed adjacent the end 17 of the body 11 to prevent the shaft 24 from moving longitudinally of the bearing member 21 in one direction. A ratchet wheel 30 is mounted on the shaft 24 and is secured thereto by the set screw 31 with one end thereof disposed against the opposite side of the aforementioned end of the member 21 to cooperate with the fastening 29 to prevent the shaft 24 from moving longitudinally of the bearing member 21. As best seen in Figure 6, the ratchet wheel 30 is provided with the teeth 32 the back edges 33 of which are rounded and the front edges 34 of which are formed substantially straight and radially of the shaft 24. A pawl 35, in the form of a leaf spring is secured at one end by the fastening 35 to the bar 12 and projects upwardly therefrom, and has its opposite end bent inwardly at 37 to engage between the teeth 32. As seen in Figure 6, end 37 is bent so that it will ride over the back edges 33 of the teeth 32 when the shaft 24 is revolved in a counterclockwise direction and will abut against the front edges 34 of the

teeth to prevent the shaft 24 from being turned in a clockwise direction.

From the foregoing it will be seen that by blowing into the passage 15 at the end 16 the portion of the member 27 which extends there-
 5 through will be vibrated to combine with the bars 12 and 13 to produce a musical tone the pitch of which can be varied by varying the tension on the member 27 which is accomplished
 10 by turning the shaft 24 in a counterclockwise direction, as heretofore described, to wind a portion of the member 27 thereon. Ratchet 30 and pawl 35 retain the shaft 24 from revolving
 15 clockwise after the member 27 has been adjusted to the proper tension to produce the desired tone or pitch. The bevel 20, as seen in Figure 4, causes the passage 15 at inlet end 16
 20 to converge inwardly to a point adjacent to where the strip 27 extends therethrough. Set screw 19 is adjustable to adjust the bars 12 and 13 relatively to each other to vary the volume
 25 of the tone produced, and the bands 14 in addition to permitting this adjustment of the bars also function to deaden their resonance. After the vibratory member 27 has been tensioned to
 30 produce the right tone or pitch and the set screw 19 adjusted to give the proper volume, the end 16 is placed in the mouth after which the hands are cupped around the instrument and by blowing
 through the passage 15 musical tones are produced which when the instrument is properly tuned will very realistically simulate the call of the hawk.

Various modifications and changes in the precise construction and arrangement of the parts forming the invention are contemplated and may obviously be resorted to, and the right is therefore expressly reserved to make such modifications and changes as do not depart from the spirit and scope of the invention as hereinafter
 40 defined by the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. A device of the class described comprising a body portion formed of sections provided with
 45 concave adjacent faces, elastic means connecting said sections, a shaft, means carried by said body portion for journaling said shaft and for positioning it above and longitudinally thereof, pawl and ratchet means associated with said shaft
 50 for controlling its turning movement, and an elastic member extending transversely between said sections, adjacent one end thereof, and connected to said shaft whereby a portion of said member will be wound thereon when the shaft is
 55 turned to tension the member.

2. A bird caller comprising a body portion formed of two bars provided with concave adjacent faces, elastic bands yieldably connecting said bars adjacent their ends, means for ad-

justably spacing the corresponding ends of said bars, bearing means mounted on one of said bars, a shaft journaled in said bearing means and provided with an opening adjacent one of its ends, an elastic member extending transversely between said bars adjacent their opposite ends and through the opening in said shaft, the ends of said elastic member being connected, and means for limiting the rotation of said shaft for
 5 adjusting said elastic member.

3. A device as in claim 2, said last mentioned means comprising a ratchet wheel keyed to said shaft, and a spring pawl mounted on one of said bars to engage the teeth of said ratchet wheel to limit the rotation of said shaft.

4. A hawk caller comprising a body portion formed of plates, yieldable members connecting said plates, the adjacent faces of said plates being concave to form a passage extending the length of said body, a U-shaped bearing member carried by said body, a shaft journaled therein and disposed above and longitudinally thereof, said shaft being provided with an opening adjacent one of its ends, an elastic vibratory sound producing member extending transversely through said passage adjacent one of its ends and through the opening in said shaft, the ends of said member being connected, said shaft being rotatable to adjustably tension said vibratory member, pawl and ratchet means associated with said shaft for retaining it in adjusted position, and a spacing member associated with said plates adjacent the opposite end of said passage for varying the size of said passage adjacent said last mentioned end.

5. A hawk caller comprising a pair of plates disposed in abutting relationship, the adjacent faces of said plates being concave to provide a passage extending the length of said plates, a set screw mounted in one end of one of said plates to engage the corresponding portion of the other plate for adjustably spacing said ends, elastic means connecting said plates adjacent their ends, an elastic vibratory sounding member extending transversely through said passage adjacent the opposite ends of said plates, and means connected to said vibratory member for adjusting the tension thereof and for retaining it in adjusted position.

6. A bird caller comprising a body member formed of sections, means for yieldably connecting said sections, said sections having concave adjacent faces forming a passage therethrough, a resilient vibratory member extending transversely through said passage, and means carried by said body member for adjustably tensioning the vibratory member.

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