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DEVICE AND METHOD FOR ANCHORING LIVE DECOYS

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Fig. 1.

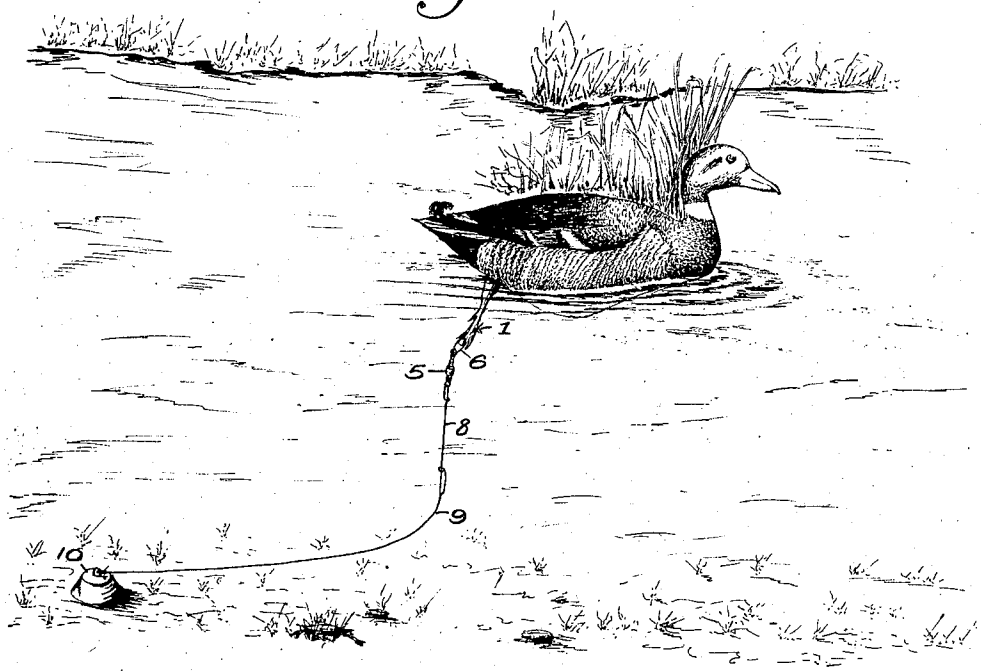

Fig. 2.

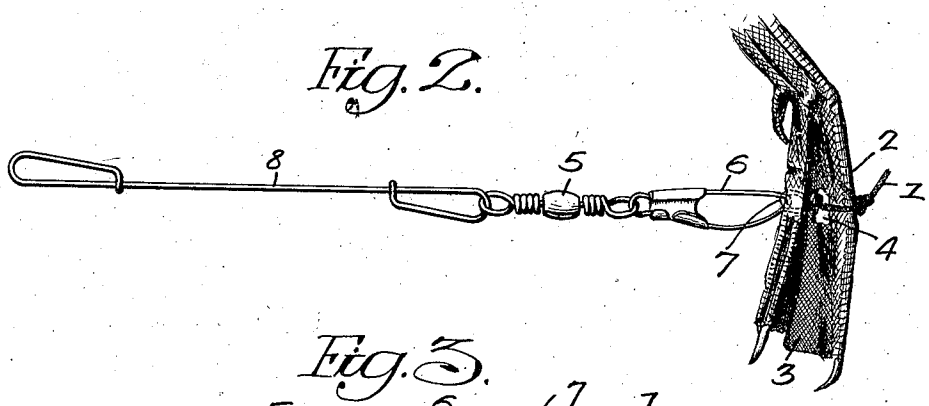

Fig. 3.

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DEVICE AND METHOD FOR ANCHORING LIVE DECOYS.

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The object of this invention is to provide a device for anchoring live decoy ducks which reduces to a minimum interference with the free movements of the decoy, and which practically precludes the possibility of the decoy becoming entangled in the flexible connector forming a part of the anchoring means.

A further object is to provide a novel method of anchoring the decoy, possessing material advantages over methods previously employed.

In the attached drawings:

Figure 1, is a view illustrating a live decoy anchored by means of a device made in accordance with my invention;

Fig. 2, is an enlarged view illustrating details of the device and the method of attaching the device to the foot of the decoy, and

Fig. 3, is a further enlarged view illustrating further details of the device.

Prior to my invention, it has been the custom to anchor live decoys by attaching them to a suitably fixed anchor element by means of a flexible cord or connector attached to the neck of the decoy or around the leg. Both of these methods are open to objection by reason of the fact that it is extremely easy for the duck to become entangled with the cord, and, particularly when the device is around the neck, to behave in such manner in its efforts to break loose as to alarm the wild ducks that might otherwise be inclined to settle at that point.

I have discovered means whereby these objectionable features may be entirely eliminated, and whereby not only is the duck permitted a maximum freedom from restraint by the anchoring elements but also is practically prevented from becoming entangled.

With reference to the drawings, and particularly to Figs. 1 and 2, the device comprises essentially an element which is attached to the foot of the duck in such manner as to interfere in no way with the normal movements of the foot, and a suitable connector attached to this element and to the stake or weight which may constitute the anchor.

As clearly illustrated, the element which is attached to the foot of the duck consists in the present instance of a cord 1 which is passed through the web on either side of the central bone 2 of the foot, and is tied at the front in such manner as to encircle the bone, the web 3 being pierced, as clearly indicated at 4 for passage of this cord. In the present instance, I connect with this cord 1 at the under side of the foot a swivel 5, this swivel in the present instance being attached to the cord 1 through the medium of a suitable releasable connecting element 6, consisting of a device fashioned more or less after the nature of a safety pin. In order to prevent the cord 1 from chafing on the connecting element 6, I tie onto the cord 1 a metal or other wear-resisting ring 7, the ring being so attached to the cord as to prevent any substantial degree of frictional movement between the cord and the ring.

Instead of securing the flexible connecting cord 9 which is attached to the anchor element directly to the swivel 5, I prefer to employ intermediate the swivel and the end of the cord a rigid element 8, this element being in the present instance in the form of a stiff wire link having releasable hooks at each end to render it easily detachable, and being of a length adapted for the particular purpose for which it is intended as hereinafter described.

As illustrated in Fig. 1, this link 8 has secured to its outer end the flexible cord 9 extending to the anchor element which, in the present instance, is illustrated as consisting of a weight 10.

The device has been found peculiarly effective in operation. Where the water is of substantial depth, as illustrated in Fig. 1, the link 8 and the elements 5 and 6 are of such weight as to assume a substantially vertical position of suspension from the foot of the duck, thereby carrying the flexible connector 9 downwardly entirely clear of the duck and effectively preventing the leg of the duck or other part from becoming entangled in the connector.

In addition to this, if the water becomes shallow by reason of a falling tide so that the attaching cord lies in a substantially horizontal position, the rigid link 8 still prevents the entanglement of the decoy in the cord. Further, by attaching the device as illustrated to the foot of the duck, the decoy is in no way embarrassed in its movements, and is able to move around in the water in an entirely natural manner.

It will be understood that the device is

capable of some modification without departure from the essential features of the invention.

I claim:

1. A device for staking out or hitching a live animal comprising a suitable loop or ring for attachment to the leg of the animal, a flexible member for connection to a stake or weight, and a non-flexible member, of sufficient length to span the spread of the animal's legs attached between the loop and flexible member.

2. A device for staking out or hitching a live animal comprising a suitable loop or ring for attachment to the leg of the animal, a flexible member for connection to a stake or weight, a swivel, and a non-flexible member, of sufficient length to span the spread of the animal's legs attached between the loop and flexible member.

3. A device for staking out or hitching a live animal comprising a suitable ring or loop for attachment to the leg of the animal and permanently attached thereto.

4. A device for staking out or hitching a live animal comprising a suitable loop or ring for attachment to the leg of the animal, a flexible member for connection to a stake or weight, and a non-buoyant member suitably attached to said flexible member to prevent the animal's legs from becoming snarled in the flexible member.

5. A device for staking out or hitching a live animal comprising a suitable loop or ring for attachment to the leg of the animal, a flexible member for connection to a stake or weight, means for attaching and detaching the animal, and a non-flexible member, of sufficient length to span the spread of the animal's legs attached between the loop and flexible member.

6. A device for staking out or hitching a live animal comprising a suitable loop or ring for attachment to the leg of the animal, a flexible member for connection to a stake or weight, a swivel, means for attaching and detaching the animal, and a non-flexible member, of sufficient length to span the spread of the animal's legs attached between the loop and flexible member.

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