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**McVay**

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(54) **GAME BIRD DECOY APPARATUS**

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**A41D 1/02** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **2/94; 2/DIG. 2**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... **2/456, 2/69, 84-89, 93, 94, 108, 900, 202, 244; 43/3, 2**

See application file for complete search history.

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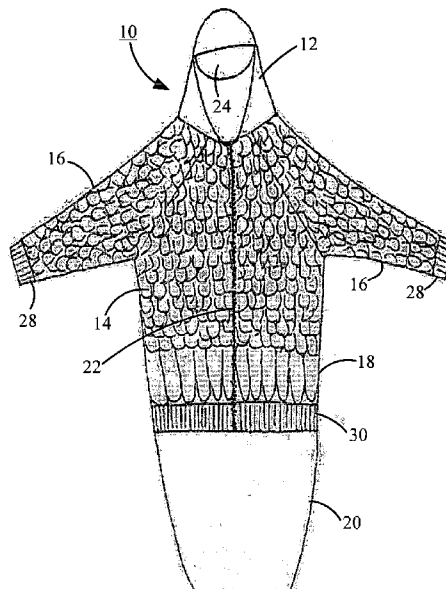
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present application provides a game bird decoy apparatus for sportsmen who desire to gain proximity access to wild game birds, the game bird decoy apparatus being a reversible garment having the general shape and image of a wild game bird. One of side of the game bird decoy apparatus appears as the image of one type of game bird, and the other one another type of game bird. A body portion is wearable by the sportsman, and a head portion hoods over the sportsman's head. Feather patterns or solid colors can be on the sides as desired to image various combinations of feathers and colors of wild game birds. A detachable tail portion at a lower portion of the body extends downwardly there from.

**1 Claim, 2 Drawing Sheets**



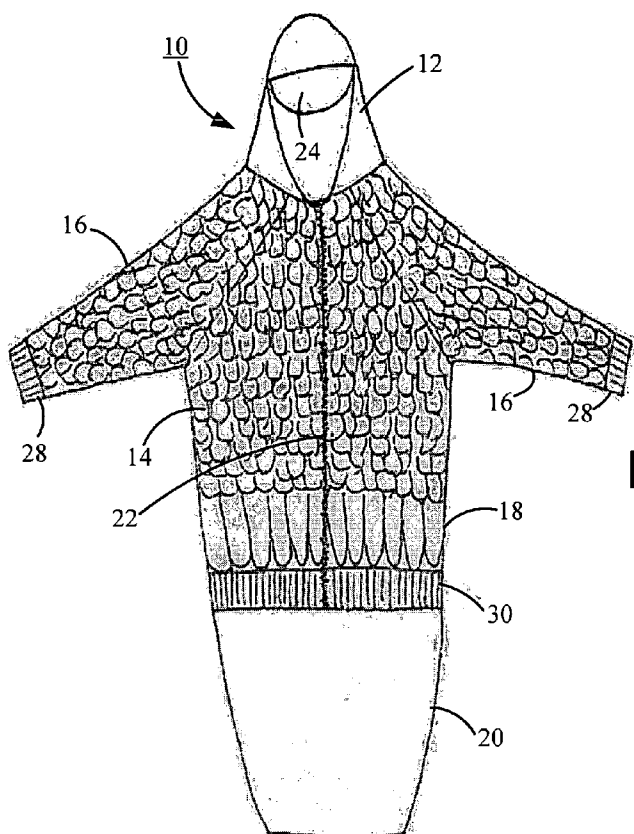


FIG. 1

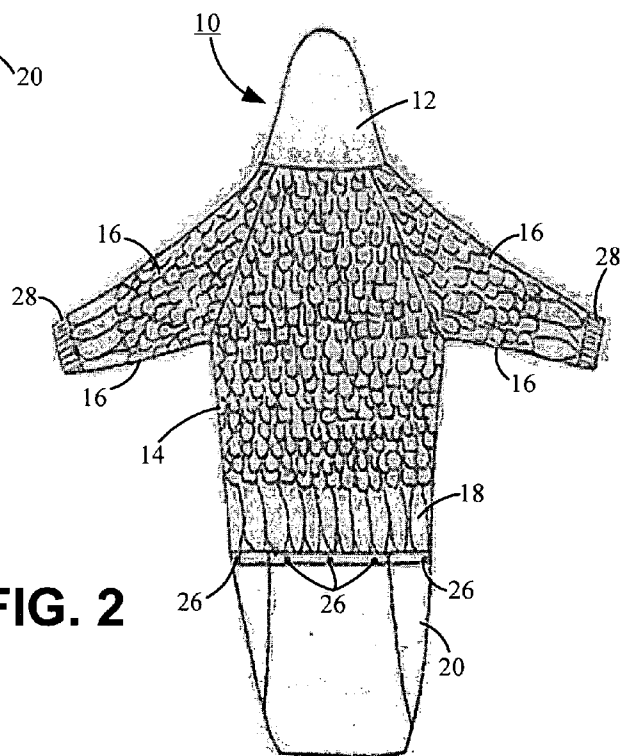


FIG. 2

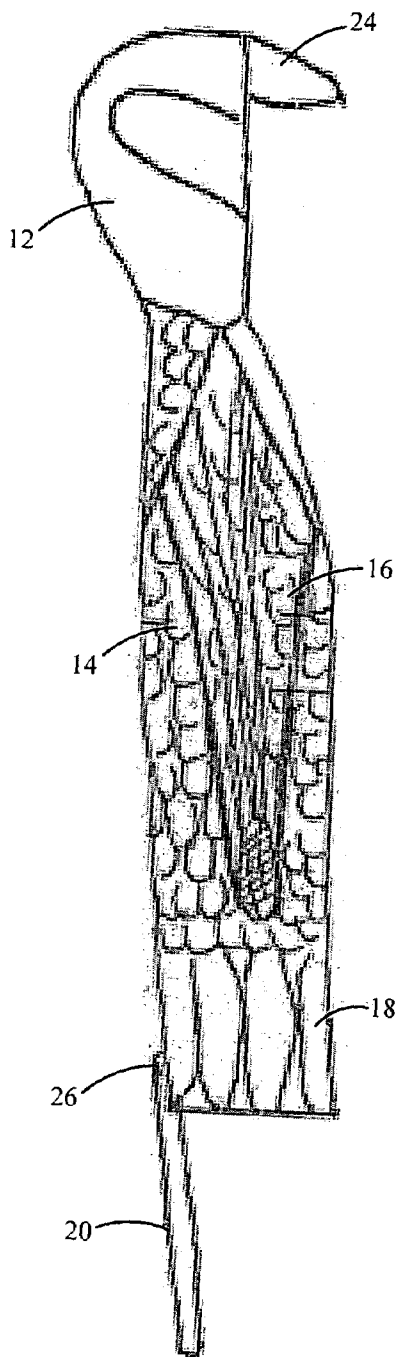


FIG. 3A

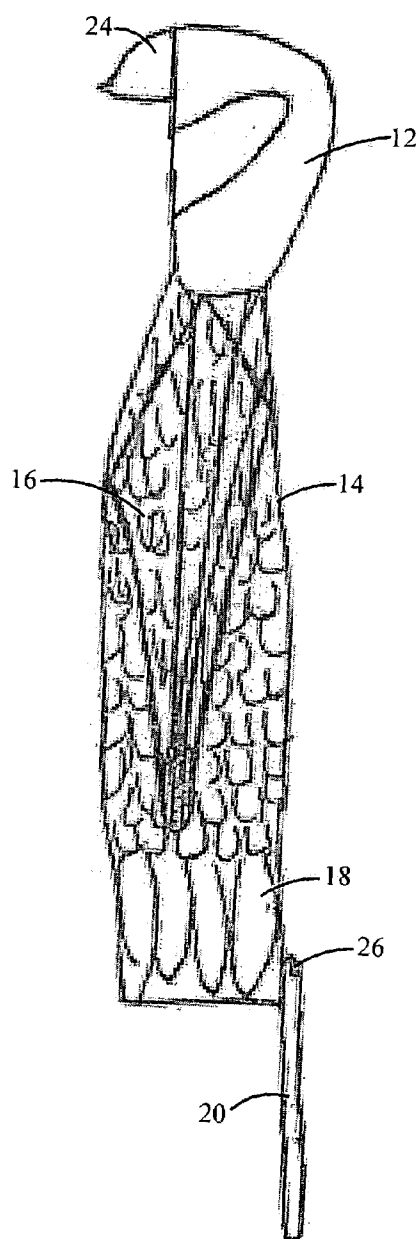


FIG. 3B

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**GAME BIRD DECOY APPARATUS**

## RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Appli- 5  
cation No. 60/496,846 filed Aug. 21, 2003, entitled Goose  
Decoy Garment Apparatus.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

## 1. Field of Invention

The present invention relates to the field of equipment for  
hunters, nature photographers, naturalists and the like, and  
more particularly but not by way of limitation, to a portable  
game bird decoy apparatus.

## 2. Discussion

There have been various types of blinds proposed in the  
past for concealing a person, such as a hunter, photographer  
or the like, who is attempting to gain stealth proximity to  
wildlife game, such as when attempting to get close without  
being detected. An example of this is when a hunter or  
photographer attempts to get close to an animal or bird for  
a hunting shot or a photography snap.

Prior art decoy apparatuses have ranged from a mere  
covering for a pit that was shaped like a game bird (as taught  
by U.S. Pat. No. 2,501,517, issued to Honald) to a hollow  
game bird shaped member (as taught by U.S. Pat. No.  
4,581,837, issued to Powlus). Garment decoys have been  
worn by gamesmen that have the general outline of a bird (as  
taught by U.S. Pat. No. 5,197,216, issued to Norris). There  
are advantages and draw backs for each of these prior art  
approaches to gaining close proximity to game.

Of particular interest is the sport of hunting complex  
game birds such as, for example, geese. Consideration of the  
sport of hunting or photographing wild geese must begin  
with the fact that this sport is one of the most difficult ones  
when compared to most other types of game bird hunting,  
requiring much savvy and commitment. This applies as well  
to a photographer or naturalist who, like the hunter, must  
have a keen knowledge of the habits of these birds.

Generally, wild geese roost near rivers or lakes at night,  
and flocks fly to nearby fields for feeding during the day. It  
can be expected that flocks of geese, once acclimated to a  
particular area, will return day after day to the same fields  
until the available food supply will no longer support the  
flock.

While at a particular roosting spot, the flock will feed  
early in the morning, and to a lesser degree, late in the  
evening. For a hunter or a photographer desiring to maxi-  
mize the opportunities afforded by the habits of geese, it is  
common for the members of a sporting party to arise several  
hours before dawn and quietly make their way to one of the  
feeding sites. Once concealed by some means of camou-  
flage, the members of the sporting party await the early light  
of dawn and the arrival of the flock.

Typically, the flock of geese will circle the landing area,  
scoping out the feeding area for potential predators or other  
unusual activity, and if alerted to potential danger, the flock  
will abort landing at the site. Once the flock is on the ground,  
sentinel birds post themselves at the periphery of the feeding  
flock guarding the feeding flock.

Sportsmen positioned since before dawn around the land-  
ing site will either be in camouflaged blinds or have some  
other type of coverage. As the birds come into for landing at  
the feeding site, the concealed sportsman must move rapidly  
out of the blind or camouflage to quickly shoot at, or  
photograph, the geese. Thus, the selection of concealing

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means must permit the concealed person to quickly react as  
the flock approaches within the appropriately selected range  
for the sporting activity.

There is a need for an apparatus that provides a hunter,  
photographer or other naturalist close proximity to game  
birds, such as wild geese, while permitting rapid reaction to  
such birds once proximity access is gained.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present application provides a game bird decoy  
apparatus for sportsmen and the like who desire to gain  
proximity access to wild geese flocks and the like. The game  
bird decoy apparatus is a reversible garment, each side of  
which forming the general shape and image of a wild goose.  
That is, one of an inner and an outer side of the game bird  
decoy apparatus presents the general image of one type of  
game bird, and the other one of an inner and an outer side  
presents the general image of another type of game bird.

The game bird decoy apparatus has a body portion that is  
wearable by the sportsman, and a head portion that hoods  
over the sportsman's head. On one side, the body portion has  
a feather pattern to simulate the appearance of a Canadian  
goose, and on the reverse side, the body portion is largely  
white with only the patterns of the black wing tips on each  
side.

A tail portion is appended to trail from a lower portion of  
the body portion, and is disposed to extend downwardly  
there from. By way of example, one side of the tail portion  
can be black to accompany the feather pattern typical of a  
Canadian goose, while the other side of the tail portion can  
be white to accompany the white pattern of a snow goose.

The advantages and features of the present invention will  
be apparent from the following description when read in  
conjunction with the accompanying drawings and appended  
claims.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a front view of a game bird decoy apparatus  
constructed in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a rear view of the game bird decoy apparatus of  
FIG. 1.

FIG. 3A is an elevational view of one side of the game  
bird decoy apparatus of FIG. 1, and FIG. 3B is an  
elevational view of the other side thereof.

## DESCRIPTION

Turning now to the drawings and more particularly to  
FIG. 1, shown therein is a game bird decoy apparatus 10  
constructed in accordance with the present invention. The  
game bird decoy apparatus 10 is a garment that is designed  
to be donned by a hunter or sportsman seeking close  
proximity to a flock of game birds or the like. The word  
sportsman will be used herein to mean anyone who seeks to  
gain proximity access to game birds, which for purposes of  
the present disclosure will be taken as wild geese, but the  
invention disclosed herein is not meant to be limited thereto.

The game bird decoy apparatus has a head portion 12 in  
the shape of a hood, a body portion 14, a pair of arm portions  
or sleeves 16, a waist portion 18 and a tail portion 20. The  
game bird decoy apparatus 10 is designed to be worn like a  
garment by the sportsman, and a zipper 22 runs the length  
of the body portion 14 to open the game bird decoy  
apparatus 10 to make it easier for the sportsman to robe and  
disrobe. The game bird decoy apparatus has a bill portion 24

that extends forward from an upper portion of the hood 12 above the facial opening like the bill of a cap.

FIG. 2 shows that the tail piece 20 is detachable; that is, a plurality of snaps 26 are disposed along an upper edge of the tail piece 20. Actually, only the female head portions of the snaps 26 are disposed on the tail piece 20, while the male portions of the snaps 26 are supported at a lower, rear edge of the body portion 14. This permits the removal of the tail piece 20, which is sometimes desirable, such as when the sportsman wearing the garment is posed in a sitting position or when the suit is being cleaned or folded for storage.

The game bird decoy apparatus 10 is preferably reversible, having an inner side and an outer side. As shown in the drawing figures, one side of the game bird decoy apparatus 10, such as the outer side, preferably has markings in a pattern as shown, with an array of feathers on the body portion 14, and with longitudinally extending feathers on the waist portion 18. The other side of the game bird decoy apparatus 10, such as the inner side, will preferably have a different pattern, or it may be completely one color, such as white.

While the color patterns described herein have been specified as example patterns and colors, it is not intended that the present invention be limited to such patterns and colors. Rather, it is contemplated that a number of patterns and colors can be utilized, depending on the type of game birds that are under consideration and for which camouflage is desired.

For example, waterfowl sportsmen may wear the game bird decoy apparatus 10 as a decoy for attracting geese. The game bird decoy apparatus 10, being reversible, may have one side appearing as a Canadian goose and the other side as a Snow goose. The game bird decoy apparatus 10 as shown with the feather pattern in the accompanying drawings simulates the appearance of a Canadian goose, with the inner side being white, and when worn with the inner side being turned out, the game bird decoy apparatus 10 will simulate the appearance of a snow goose.

Preferably, the game bird decoy apparatus 10 is made of a polyester material so as to be wind resistant, and can be worn as a jacket or oversized outer game bird decoy apparatus. The bill 24 is preferably firm, yet flexible, and the sleeves 16 have elastic armbands 28 at the outer ends. Also, the waist portion 18 has an elastic band 30.

The printed feather pattern, by way of example, can simulate a Canadian goose, preferably comprising an image

of predominantly brown, gray and black markings on the body 14 and sleeves 16 of the game bird decoy apparatus, while the hood should be black with diagonal white bars. The tailpiece can be black with vertical white bars on each side edge.

Continuing with the example of simulating a goose, the body, sleeve and tail portions can be white in color, while the elastic armbands and the bill of the hood can be black.

It is clear that the present invention is well adapted to carry out the objects and to attain the ends and advantages mentioned as well as those inherent therein. While a presently preferred embodiment of the invention has been described in varying detail for purposes of the disclosure, it will be understood that numerous changes may be made which will readily suggest themselves to those skilled in the art and which are encompassed within the spirit of the invention disclosed and as defined in the above text and in the accompanying drawings.

What is claimed is:

1. A game bird decoy apparatus for providing a sportsman proximity access to game birds, comprising:

a garment reversible between a first side forming the illusion of a first game bird when worn by the sportsman and a second side forming the illusion of a second game bird when worn by the sportsman, the garment comprising:

- a body portion;
- a head portion that hoods the sportsman's head;
- arm portions; and
- a removable tail portion; and

wherein the body portion on one side of the garment having a pattern simulating the feathers of the first game bird, the body portion on the opposing side of the garment having a pattern simulating the second game bird, the arm portions on one side of the garment having a pattern simulating the feathers of the first game bird, and the arm portions on the opposing side of the garment having a pattern simulating the second game bird, the tail portion being attachable to the body portion so as to extend downwardly there from, each side of the tail portion having a color complementing one of the patterns of the opposing sides of the body portion.

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