circuitry 43 is an operator-activated switch 76 of a magnetic form comprised of a magnetically-responsive component 77 (such as a hall-effect device or magnetoresistor to name a couple of nonlimiting examples) and an indicator 80, both of which are also coupled to controller 70. Switch 76 is arranged to respond to a magnetic field when magnetic field source 78 is in close proximity thereto. In one form, magnetic field source 78 is provided in the form of a hand-held wand 79. Indicator 80 includes two Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) 82 and 84 each of a different color. In one particular nonlimiting example, one of LEDs 82 and 84 is red, while the other of LEDs 82 and 84 is green. The operation of these features is further described hereinafter in connection with Fig. ~~5~~4; however, further aspects to gateway 33 are first described in connection with Fig. ~~4~~5. In other embodiments, switch 76 may be of a mechanical variety, such as a pushbutton, rotary, slider, or toggle type; a capacitive proximity type, an optic type, or a thermally activated type --just to name a few possibilities. In one nonlimiting alternative, rodent trap activation was demonstrated with a pushbutton form of switch.

Referring to Fig. ~~4~~5, gateway 33 is further depicted; where like reference numerals refer to like features previously described. Gateway 33 includes controller 70 with memory 72. Gateway 33 further includes a wireless network interface 250 with antenna 258 to communicate with the wireless communication network 36, as defined by a corresponding pest control group 30; and modem 260 with antenna 268 to interface with a wireless WAN network 25. In one nonlimiting form, controller 70 is a general purpose laptop or personal computer running an application to define a communication gateway, interface 250 is of a local area network (LAN) type, and modem 260 utilizes General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) through the Global System for Mobile communications

(GSM) protocol. It should be appreciated that in alterative embodiments, controller 70, interface 250, and/or modem 260 may differ. In one such alternative in which gateway 22 directly interfaces with internet 26, controller 70 is of a microcontroller type, such as model no. C805F120 provided by Cygnal Technologies; interface 250 is a 25 milliWatt (mW) W A VENIS-compatible wavecard provided by Coronis Systems; and modem 260 is of a hardwired dial-up and/or coaxial cable type (not shown).

Having generally described the structural and functional aspects of group 30, further details regarding its operation are next described. Initially, pest control devices 40 of a respective group 30 are installed to protect the building/area of interest, which includes physically positioning each of pest control devices 40 and establishing wireless network 36. Fig. ~~5~~4 depicts one mode of establishing network 36 in flowchart form as network installation procedure 220; where like reference numerals refer to like features previously described. Procedure 220 can be implemented in accordance with operating logic executed by controller 70 of at least some of the pest control devices 40 and gateway 33 for the respective group 30. Procedure 220 logically associates each node 42 with a corresponding gateway 33. During procedure 220, each node 42 attempts to establish a reliable communications path to the respective gateway 33, either directly or by relaying its messages through one or more other nodes 42 of the same group 30, and provides the installer feedback concerning its success or failure in finding a reliable communications path. Specifically, in operation 222, a selected node 42 is activated. For the magnetically-responsive component 77 form of switch 76, a magnetic field from source 78 is placed in close proximity. In response, switch 76 changes state and triggers network establishment for such selected node 42. In an alternative implementation, an

What is claimed is:

1. A method, comprising:

operating a pest control system including a plurality of pest control devices and a data collector, the pest control devices each including a respective pest sensor and a respective wireless communication circuit;

wirelessly transmitting sensor information from the respective sensor of a first one of the pest control devices to a second one of the pest control devices; and

wirelessly providing the sensor information from the second one of the pest control devices to the data collector; wherein

the pest control system is established by placing the first one of the pest control devices in a first position and providing at the first one of the pest control devices a first output indicating communication between the first one of the pest control devices and the data collector, and positioning the second one of the pest control devices in a second position and providing at the second one of the pest control devices a second output indicating direct or indirect communication between the second one of the pest control devices and the data collector.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first output is a luminous visual output and the second output is a luminous visual output.

3. The method of claim 2, which includes applying a magnetic field proximate to a selected one of the pest control devices to initiate the activation of the installation operation mode, and wherein the selected one of the pest control devices includes a magnetic switch responsive to the magnetic field and further comprising:

providing a third output different than the first output if the selected one of the pest control devices fails to establish the wireless communication link after a predefined period of time;

in response to the third output, installing one or more other of the pest control devices; and

after the installing of the one or more other of the pest control devices, attempting again to establish the wireless communication link for the selected one of the pest control devices.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the selected one of the pest control devices fails to establish the wireless communication link and further comprising:

changing position of the selected one of the pest control devices; and

establishing the wireless communication link with the selected one of the pest control devices after the changing of the position thereof.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein one or more of the pest control devices includes a respective bait for one or more species of pest.

6. The method of claim 5, which includes attracting at least one of termites and bedbugs with the bait.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein at least some of the pest control devices include at least one of: (a) an active transponder and (b) two or more sensor types.

8. The method of claim 1, which includes:

providing the data collector as a form of gateway;

interfacing the gateway to a computer network; and

providing a user access to data gathered with pest control devices through the computer network.

9. The method of claim 8, which includes:

providing a number of different gateways, the gateways each corresponding to a respective one of several different pest control device groups;

monitoring each of several different locations with the respective one of the different pest control device groups, the different locations being remote from one another;

from each of the different gateways, communicating information through the computer network to a data management server; and

establishing the user access with the data management server.

10. The method of claim 1, which includes:

providing one or more of the pest control devices with a respective bait for a rodent; and

detecting rodent activity with the respective pest sensor of at least one of the one or more of the pest control devices.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the one or more of the pest control devices includes a respective rodent trap and the respective pest sensor of each of the one or more of the pest control devices signals activation of the respective rodent trap.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the respective wireless communication circuit of the first one of the pest control devices is out of communication range with the data collector, and the relaying of the sensor information from the second one of the pest control devices includes sending the sensor information through at least a third one of the pest control devices before the sensor information reaches the data collector.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein a first group of the pest control devices each communicate data to the data collector through one or more of a second group of pest control devices.

14. A method, comprising:

providing a pest control system including a data collector and several pest control devices, the pest control devices each including a respective sensor, and a respective wireless communication circuit;

activating a network installation mode of a selected one of the pest control devices;

during the network installation mode, attempting to establish a wireless communication link with a pest control system communication network;

if the wireless communication link is established, providing a first type of output to an operator; and

if the wireless communication link is not established, providing a second type of output to the operator.

15. The method of claim 14, which includes:

wirelessly communicating information through the wireless communication link from the selected one of the pest control to the data collectors by relaying the information with a least one other of the pest control devices; and

in response to the second type of output to the operator, reattempting to establish the wireless communication link.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the reattempting includes:

increasing quantity of the pest control devices in the pest control communication network; and

after increasing the quantity, reapplying the magnetic field proximate to the selected one of the pest control devices to establish the wireless link with the pest system communication network.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the reattempting includes:

changing relative position between the selected one of the pest control devices and at least one of: the data collector and any other of the pest control devices; and

after changing the relative position, reapplying the magnetic field proximate to the selected one of the pest control devices to establish the wireless link with the pest system communication network.

18. The method of claim 14, which includes storing a first communication path including the communication link for the selected one of the pest control devices, the first communication path including a first one of the pest control devices to relay information to the data collector from the selected one of the pest control devices.

19. The method of claim 18, which includes:

detecting degradation of the first communication pathway;

replacing the first communication pathway with a second communication pathway for the selected one of the pest control devices, the second communication pathway including a second one of the pest control devices instead of the first one of the pest control device; and

storing the second communication path for the selected one of the pest control devices.

20. The method of claim 14, wherein the selected one of the pest control devices includes an operator activated switch, the first type of output includes a first illumination arrangement, and the second type of output includes a second illumination arrangement.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the switch is of a magnetically responsive type, the activating of the network installation mode includes applying a magnetic field in proximity to the switch, and the first illumination arrangement includes a first visible light color and the second illumination arrangement includes a second visible light color different than the first visible light color.

22. The method of claim 14, wherein at least one of the pest control devices includes a respective bait to attract one or more species of pest.

23. An apparatus, comprising: a pest control device, including:

a pest sensor operable to provide one or more signals representative of pest detection;

circuitry including: a wireless communication transceiver coupled to the pest sensor to transmit information corresponding to the pest detection, a component responsive to a magnetic

field proximate to the pest control device to operate the transceiver in an installation mode, and a controller to execute operating logic to establish a wireless communication link with one or more other devices during the installation mode; and

an indicator coupled to the circuitry to provide a first operator output indicative of establishment of the wireless communication link if the attempt succeeds, and a second operator output indicative of failure to establish the wireless communication link.

24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the pest control device includes a bait to attract one or more species of pest.

25. The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising a rodent trap and the pest sensor being structured to provide rodent trap status information.

26. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the component includes at least one of a hall effect device and a magnetoresistor.

27. The apparatus of claim 23, further comprising a number of other pest control devices and a data collector, the data collector including means for wirelessly communicating with the pest control device and the other pest control devices.

28. The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising:

a computer network in communication with the gateway; and

a data management server in communication with the computer network.

29. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein:

the gateway includes means for communicating sensor status information from the pest control device to the data management server; and

the data management server includes:

means for storing and evaluating the sensor status information;

means for accessing data stored with the data management server by a user over the computer network.

30. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein~~wherien~~ the circuitry includes a processing device and logic executable by the processing device to determine and store information representative of a wireless communication pathway through the one or more other devices.

31. The apparatus of claim 23, further comprising:

a number of gateways each in wireless communication with a respective one of a number of different pest control device groups, the pest control device belonging to one of the groups, the gateways each gathering data from the respective one of the different pest control device groups;

a computer network in communication with the gateways; and

a data management server in communication with the computer network, that includes: means for storing and evaluating pest control device information from each of the different pest control device groups, means for accessing data stored with the data management server by one or more users over the computer network.

32. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the logic executed by the processing device includes means for providing adjustable sensitivity of the pest sensor.

~~33. A system, comprising:~~

~~a first pest control device group including a plurality of wireless communication nodes, each of the wireless communication nodes being provided with a corresponding pest sensor; and~~

~~a first gateway to receive sensor data from the corresponding sensor of each of the wireless communication nodes, one or more of the wireless communication nodes including a respective controller to execute operating logic to define a wireless communication network between the wireless communication nodes and to provide an output to an operator indicating establishment of the wireless communication network, the wireless communication network including a first subset of the wireless communication nodes to relay sensor information to the first gateway from a second subset of the wireless communication nodes, the second subset being different than the first subset.~~

~~34. The system of claim 33, wherein each of the wireless communication nodes includes a corresponding pest bait.~~

~~35. The system of claim 34, wherein the corresponding pest bait includes an attractant for at least one of bedbugs and termites and the corresponding sensor is to detect insect activity.~~

~~36. The system of claim 34, wherein the corresponding pest bait includes an attractant for rodents and the corresponding sensor is to detect rodent activity.~~

37. The system of claim 33, further comprising:

a computer network in communication with the first gateway; and

a data management server in communication with the computer network to receive and store the sensor data; and

a user access client connected to the computer network to access information stored in the data management server.

38. The system of claim 37, wherein the data management server is structured to execute programming instructions that define: a database to store data received from the first gateway, a notification routine to provide notice of one or more conditions indicated by the sensor data, a report generation routine, and a data analysis routine.

39. The system of claim 33, further comprising:

a second pest control device group including a plurality of other wireless communication nodes each coupled to a different sensor; and

a second gateway to receive different sensor data over another wireless communication network defined between the other wireless communication nodes.

40. The system of claim 33, wherein each of the wireless communication nodes belongs to the first subset includes a wireless transceiver to relay the sensor information.

41. The system of claim 33, wherein each of the wireless communication nodes belongs to the second subset includes a wireless transmitter.

42. A pest control device, comprising: a respective sensor, a respective wireless communication circuit, a controller to define a respective wireless communication node and at least partially define a wireless communication network with other wireless communication nodes in which a first subset of the nodes relays sensor information to a data collector from a second subset of the nodes, and a selectively illuminable visual indicator output on the pest control device.

43. The device of claim 42 further comprising a pest bait.

44. The device of claim 42 wherein the controller includes operating logic in a form of programming instructions stored on a memory included in the pest control device.

~~45. The device of claim 42, further comprising a magnetic field responsive component to trigger an installation mode of operation of the pest control device in response to a magnetic field proximate thereto.~~

~~46. A system, comprising a plurality of the pest control devices of claim 42.~~

~~47. The system of claim 46, further comprising a data collector in the form of a gateway interfaced with computer networks, and a data management server coupled to the network to collect data from the pest control devices.~~