

Sexing Wild Turkeys

It's relatively easy to determine a turkey's sex from a distance. Look for these key characteristics.



Hens (Females)

- Have feathers to the top of their head
- Rarely have a beard of whiskers protruding from their chest
- Do not have spurs on their legs
- Do not display their tail in a fan
- Make soft clucks and yelps, but never gobble
- Have brown-tipped breast feathers
- Have cone-shaped scat

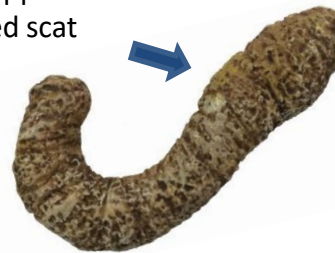


Breast feather



Toms (Males)

- Have featherless heads that are variations of red, white and blue
- Almost always have a beard of whiskers protruding from their chest
- Have sharp spurs on their legs
- Fan their tails to display dominance
- Gobble loudly to display dominance
- Have black-tipped breast feathers
- Have j-shaped scat



Breast feather

Beard

A beard is made of modified feathers that hang from the chest of a male turkey. Very rarely, females can have beards.



Aging Wild Turkeys

Turkeys can also be classified as juveniles or adults based on several features listed below.

Tail Fans



Juveniles

Have uneven length tail feathers



Adults

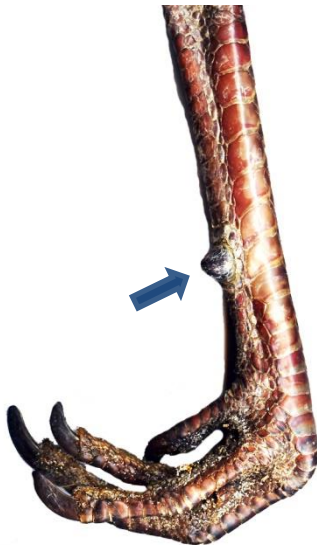
Have even length tail feathers

Legs



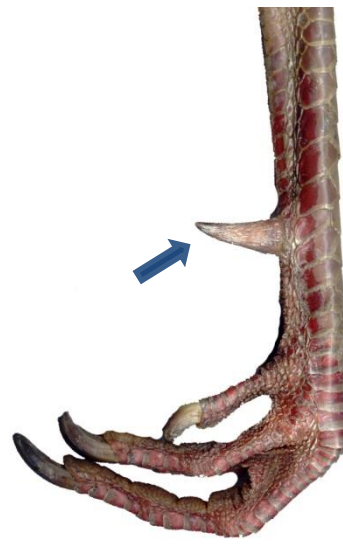
Hens (Females)

Lack spurs on their legs



Jakes (Juvenile Males)

Have rounded spur (bump) on leg



Gobblers (Adult Males)

Have pointed spur on leg