

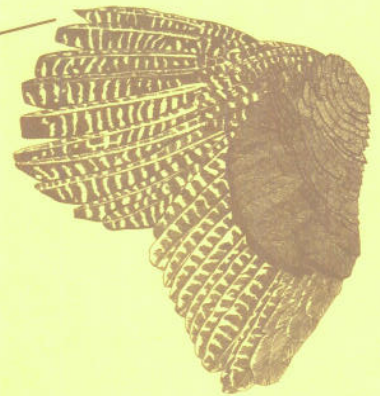
WILD TURKEY AGING AND SEXING GUIDE

The age of a wild turkey can be determined by looking at its wing and tail feathers.

WING FEATHERS

Place the wing in a fanned position and find the outermost wing feather. If the tip is broadly rounded and barred with white to the outermost tip of the feather, the bird is an adult. If the tip is pointed and plain gray in color without white barring to the tip of the feather, the bird is a juvenile.

ADULT - 9th & 10th primaries more rounded with white barring extending to the end.



JUVENILE - 9th & 10th primaries pointed and dark tipped, no barring near tip.



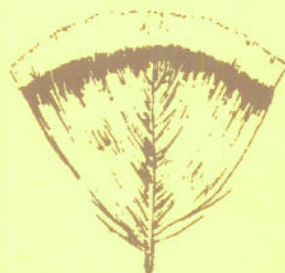
The sex of wild turkeys should be determined by looking at the breast feathers.

BREAST FEATHERS

Adult turkey breast feathers are square-tipped with females having brown- or buff-tipped feathers and males having black-tipped feathers. This difference is obvious on adult turkeys, but juvenile birds require a closer look. Many juvenile birds have not molted their juvenile breast feathers by the time of the fall hunting season. Juvenile breast feathers are all buff-tipped, but have rounded tips and are more slender than adult breast feathers. In determining the sex of a juvenile turkey, it is best to examine feathers on the lower two-thirds of the breast for positive identification.



MALE - Breast feathers are black-tipped.



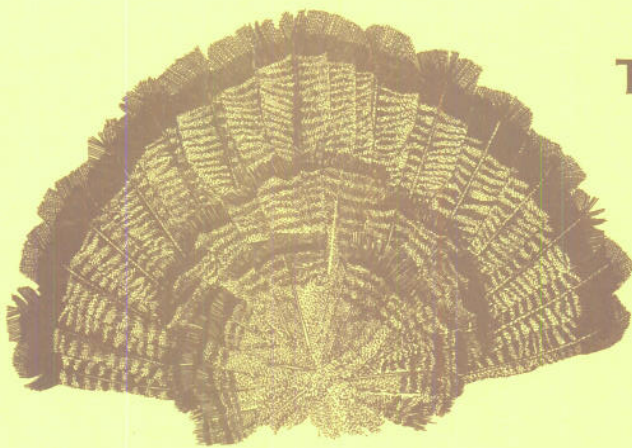
FEMALE - Breast feathers are brown- or buff-tipped.



JUVENILE - Breast feathers are round-tipped and more slender. Cannot be used to determine sex.



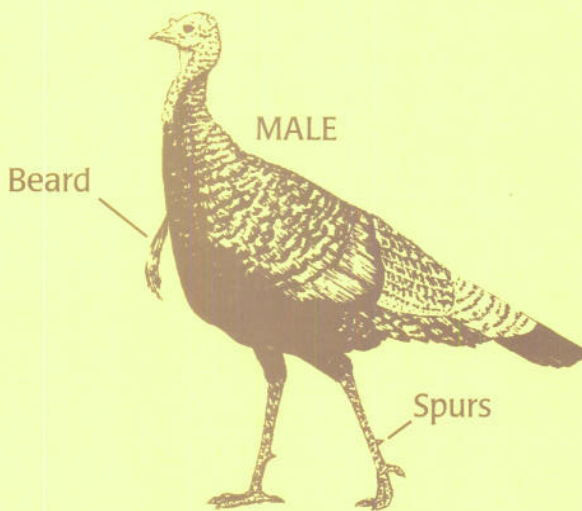
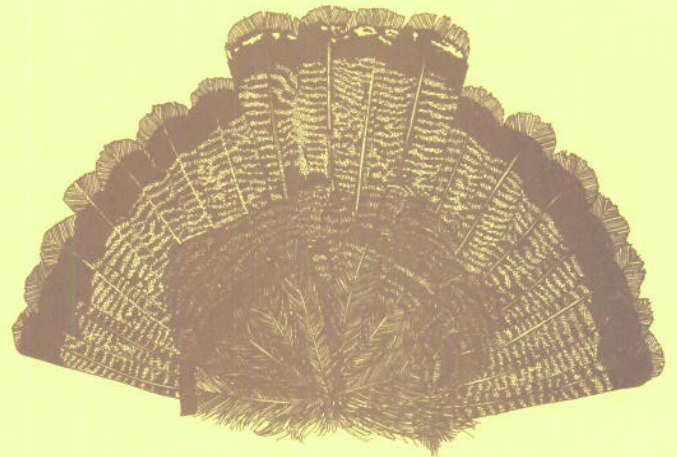
INCHES



ADULT TAIL - when fanned out, will form an even, unbroken outline.

TAIL

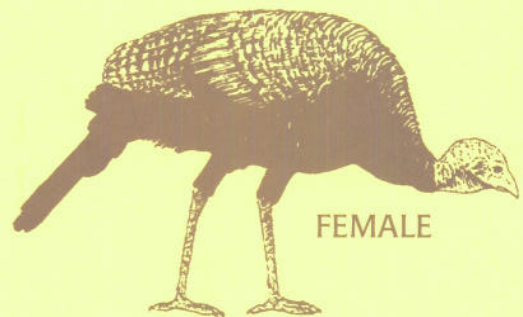
JUVENILE TAIL - when fanned out, will appear broken in its outline. The central tail feathers are longer than the outer feathers.



MALE

Beard

Spurs



FEMALE

BEARDS

Left to right

1 year - 3-5"

2 years - 6-9"

3 years - 10" plus



SPURS



1 year
1/2" or less

2 years
1/2" - 7/8"

3 years
7/8" - 1"

4+ years
over 1"