

# “Talk Turkey To Me” Icebreaker

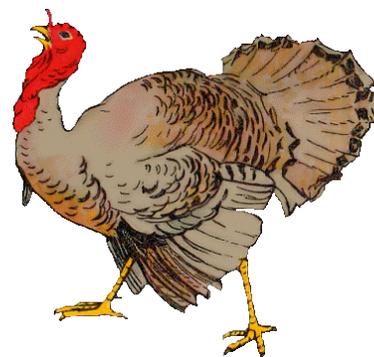
This icebreaker was designed by Lori Adams from Idaho Project WILD.

## Directions:

1. Hand out copies of ‘Talk turkey to me’ cards to participants. Be sure to print out at least 2 copies of each call.
2. Have participants read card to learn about the specific call, then have them walk around room making their call to find a partner making the same call.
3. Once participants find the ‘turkey’ making their same noise, then have them do introductions.
4. When everyone has found their partner, go around room and have participants talk about their call then introduce each other.



Larry Hogan, Governor; Mark J. Belton., Secretary  
[dnr.maryland.gov](http://dnr.maryland.gov)



## EXCITED YELP

Cutt cutt cutt - yelp yelp

Yelp yelp yelp yelp yelp yelp yelp -

Cutt cutt -yelp yelp

The EXCITED YELP is a series of fast yelping calls with cutting thrown into the series, usually at an elevated volume. A hen turkey may raise the stakes with excited yelping when engaged in competition with other hens for a desired gobbler. It is an attempt to entice a gobbler her way, rather than allow him to move off to another presenting hen.

## THE FLY DOWN CACKLE

Cluck cluck cluck CLUCK CLUCK CLUCK

Cutt cutt cutt cutt CLUCK CLUCK CLUCK

Cutt cutt cutt cutt cutt cutt cutt cutt

The CACKLE is a flying call, but is sometimes used on the ground by a turkey. It is heard when a bird is flying up to or down from a roost. A CACKLE usually starts soft, and as the bird takes flight will get louder, then taper off as the turkey lands. In the mornings you will usually hear an elevated level of excitement before the turkeys fly down.

## CUTTING OF THE EXCITED HEN

Cutt-cutt-cutt cutt-cutt-cutt

Cutt-cutt-cutt cutt-cutt-cutt -

Cutt cutt cutt cutt cutt cutt

Cutt cutt cutt cutt cutt cutt cutt

This call is believed to be the hen's version of the gobble, which she uses to attract gobblers and it can be heard at great distances. While CUTTING, the hen is at her most excited state of emotion. CUTTING is a rapid series of sharp, high pitched clucks. This call is used year around by wild turkeys.

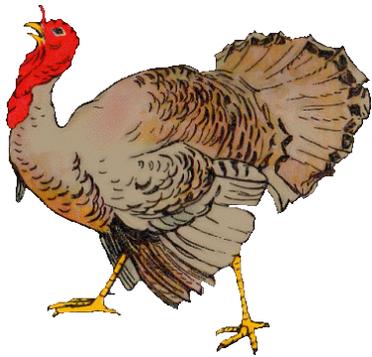
## THE CLUCK

CLUCK - CLUCK - CLUCK - CLUCK

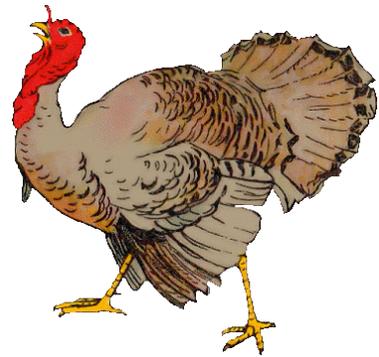
CLUCK - CLUCK - CLUCK - CLUCK

Turkeys will use the CLUCK when trying to locate one another at close range, especially from the roost in the morning. The CLUCK is usually a single note call, but can also be two or more notes spaced several seconds apart.

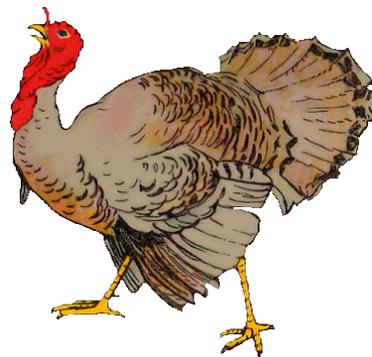
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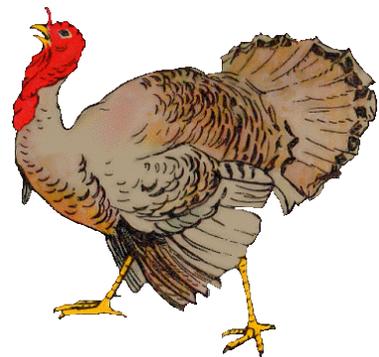
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## THE CLUCK & PURR

**Purr - CLUCK - Purr - Purrrrrrrrr -  
CLUCK - Purrrr - CLUCK - Purrrrr - Purrrrr**

The CLUCK and PURR is heard year round and quite frequently while the birds are feeding. This is a contentment call, and is perfect to use on nearby turkeys to reassure them that all is well.

## THE TREE CALL

**yelp yelp yelp yelp yelp yelp yelp -  
cluck cluck  
yelp yelp yelp yelp yelp**

The TREE CALL is usually the first call heard in the morning from roosted turkeys and is a soft, barely audible yelp. Sometimes soft purring can be heard and associated with roosted turkeys and tree yelping.

## PLAIN YELP

**Yelp yelp yelp YELP YELP -  
Yelp yelp yelp YELP YELP YELP**

The PLAIN YELP is the most common wild turkey call and is often heard during feeding times as they scratch the leaves contentedly. It consists of a series of four to eight notes. Like the human voice, the individual turkeys have their own pitch, tone and cadence, so this call will vary from bird to bird.

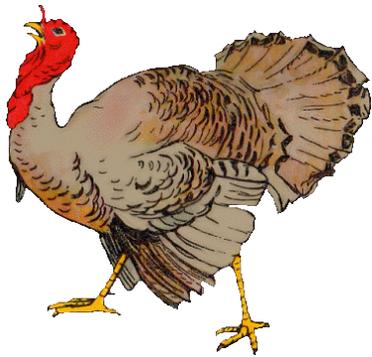
## THE GOBBLE

**GOoooooobbbbbbbble - Goooooobbbbbble  
GOoooobbbbbble**

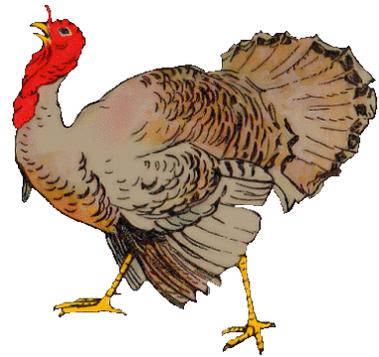
The GOBBLE is the most distinctive call heard in the turkey woods.

Made by a male turkey, the sound of this call is what gives the male the nickname "Gobbler." It is the male turkey's mating call, a way to tell the hens, "Hey! I've arrived!"

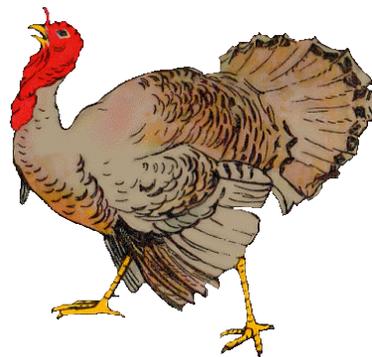
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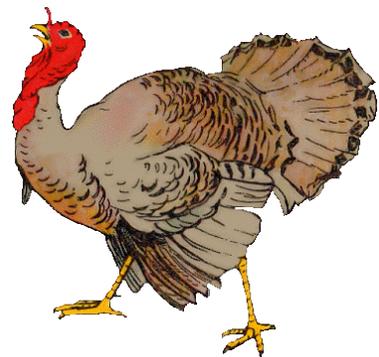
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## ASSEMBLY CALL

**Yelp yelp yelp yelp yelp YELP YELP YELP**

**Yelp yelp YELP YELP**

The ASSEMBLY CALL is a desperate, pleading call made by the hen to assemble her flock once they have ventured away. She signals frantically with a series of loud yelps as she calls out a mother's worried cry, "Hurry up. Get back here now!" You can expect to hear this series on many Fall and Winter and mornings as the brood hens gather the young following fly down.

## THE KEE KEE RUN

*High pitched whistle KEE  
KEE KEE KEE - KEE KEE KEE KEE - YELP*

The KEE KEE is the call made by a young turkey that is lost and is also used by adult birds. It is heard often in the Fall, because there are many younger birds and larger flocks. The KEE KEE is heard as the young birds begin to regroup after they have scattered from one another. They are lonely and looking for company.

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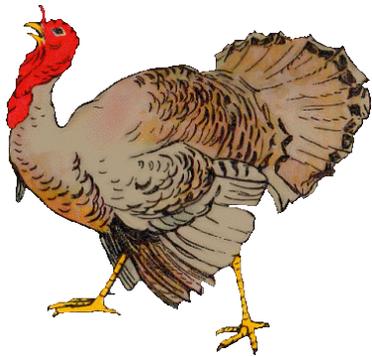
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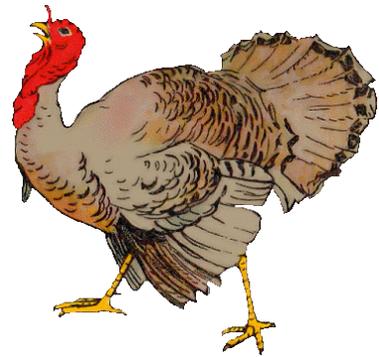
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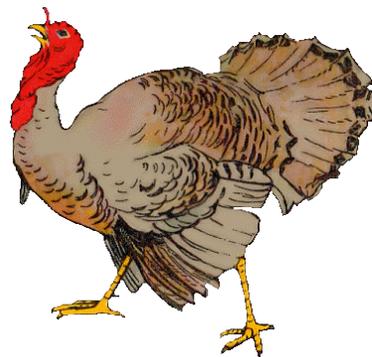
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