

## Sexing Wild Turkeys

It's relatively easy to determine a turkey's gender 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

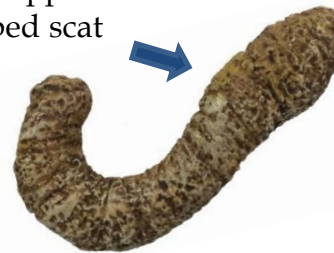


Breast feather



### 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

In addition to being distinct from female 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**

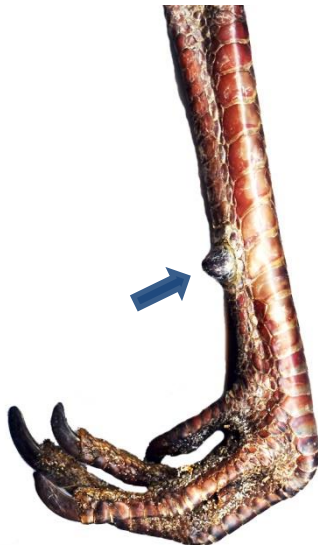
Have even length tail feathers

### Legs



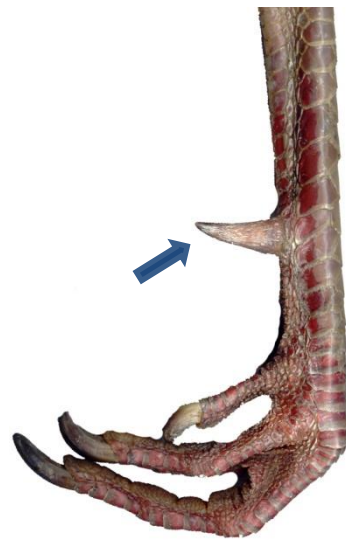
**Hens (Females)**

Lack spurs on their legs



**Jakes (Juvenile Males)**

Have rounded spur (bump)  
on leg



**Gobblers (Adult Males)**

Have pointed spur on leg

