



Wild Turkey Summer Sighting Survey Guide

Sexing and Aging of wild turkeys

Gobbler Identification

- Adult male is also called gobbler
- Look for larger body size
- Black feathers on the body
- Red or white on the head
- Head is featherless
- Often has a beard protruding from the chest





Hen Identification

- Adult female, commonly called a hen
- Brown feathered body
- Usually smaller than gobblers
- Head is usually dull colored (blueish-gray) with fine feathers giving a “hairy” appearance



Turkey Poult Identification

- A turkey chick is called a poult
- For this survey poults will generally be 2-16 weeks of age
- It is possible to see multiple age chicks in the same group
- As the survey period closes, it may be difficult to tell the difference between juvenile and adults
 - If unsure, use the “Unknown” option
- Generally, size will be the main identifier
- Poults will often have downy feathers on their heads until about 8 weeks



Survey tips

- Watch for moving vegetation around hens, often the poults will be hiding in thick vegetation near hens, especially early in the summer
- If you spot a group of turkeys that you cannot 100% ID as hens or poults, use the “Unknown” option **OR** you can take a picture and let our trained observers check for you
- You will often encounter multiple hens with poults, this is normal behavior. Count the hens and poults and record appropriately