

TIPS FOR TURKEY HUNTERS

1) **Be totally camouflaged.** A turkey has extremely keen eyes, and if he sees you before you see him, you'll never see him. One of the biggest advantages hunters have now to prevent a turkey from seeing us is camouflage. If you don't like to have on a headnet, wear camo makeup.

2) **Chose the right place to set up.** Where you take a stand to call to a turkey is often more important than the call that you use to try and bring in the gobbler. You don't want to set up with the sun in your face. Too, make sure you have back cover - either a tree trunk, bushes or limbs behind you - to break up your silhouette. I like to have some type of thick brush behind me. Then when I call to the bird, I want the turkey to think I'm behind that cover through which he can't see. This way when the turkey comes in, expecting to see a hen and doesn't see that hen that's been calling to him, he can think to himself, "I can't see that hen because she's behind that cover." That gobbler will continue to gobble and move in close to where you are to try and get the hen to come out from behind the cover and show herself.

3) **Learn to control the volume of your turkey call.** The volume you give a turkey call will tell a turkey you're either closer to or further away from him than you actually are. If you call really loud, especially when the turkey's 100 yards or less from you, that ole gobbler will think he should be able to see you because the sound of your calling is telling him that you're closer to him than you actually are. That's why he may stop, begin to strut and drum out of range and not come in close enough for you to get a shot. That gobbler knows when he's really close to a hen that she'll show herself before he comes in to meet her or that she'll be coming to him if she wants to be bred.

If you call softly when a tom's coming in, then he assumes that the hen is further away from him and that he needs to continue to come to get closer to her so she can see him. Therefore, learn when to call loudly and softly, depending on the distance you are from the turkey. When you don't know whether to call loudly or softly, always call softly. A turkey can hear a call much further away than you believe he can, and a hunter's soft calling will bag more gobblers than loud calling will.

Also, learn to call with emotion. Remember when you're calling turkeys that you're a female impersonator. You're trying to sound like a hen turkey that wants to get together and have a date with a male turkey. So the way you call to a gobbler and the emotion you put in your calling has a lot to do with how the gobbler will respond to your calling.

4) **Make the turkey look for you.** When a turkey's gobbling and coming to you, call less and call softer. The closer the turkey gets to you, the less you should call. You want that turkey to come in looking for you but don't want him to know exactly where you are. The real purpose of turkey calling is to get that gobbler to come in looking for a hen that he's heard but hasn't seen. So don't call so much that the gobbler knows your exact location. The closer he comes, and the more he gobbles, the softer and the less you need to call. Generally when you can see the turkey, or when you know the turkey is less than 100 yards from you, using no call at all may be your best tactic.

5) **Be where the turkeys want to go.** Position yourself ahead of a gobbler in the direction he is traveling. If you can watch a turkey in a field or open country and determine that gobbler's direction of travel, make a big circle around the gobbler and get in front of him. Then you may bag that gobbler without even calling. But, if you do call to the bird, he probably will come in quicker and easier than if you don't call to him.

