

KID'S

TURKEY TAILS TELL!

The turkey is a bold and wily bird that attracts a following of wildlife enthusiasts who think of it as one of Mississippi's most sought-after game birds. Turkeys have large bodies and measure up to 50 inches in length with a wingspan of some 50 to 60 inches.



Male turkeys, called gobblers, are noted for their bristle-like beards that protrude from the breast and continue to grow throughout the bird's life. Beards of about one inch begin appearing on gobblers around November and may grow up to 10 to 12 inches long.

Another characteristic of the gobbler is the presence of spurs on the inside of the legs near the foot. The spurs grow slowly over a period of several years, and may grow to a length of three-fourths of an inch or more.

A turkey's feathers can provide many clues to the careful observer. To learn more about turkeys, match the following pictures with the clues.



- A _____ The immature birds have a longer central pair of feathers.
B _____ Body contour feathers of the gobbler are tipped with black.
C _____ The tails of adult birds have equal length feathers.
D _____ The hen has brown-tipped feathers.