

AGING SPRING TURKEYS

STEP 1: AGE

ADULT or JUVENILE - examine the last 1 or 2 wing feathers.
Measure the spur. Measure the beard. Examine the tail fan.

WING - examine the last 1 or 2 wing feathers.



ADULTS
have rounded
feathers with
white barring
to tip.



JUVENILES
have narrow
pointed
feathers with
no white bars
on the last 2
inches.

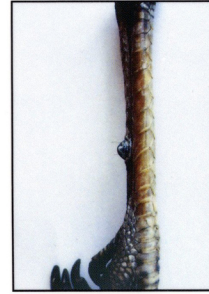
SPUR - spurs grow as the turkey gets older. Generally the longer the spur, the older the bird.



Place ruler
against leg
at base of
spur and
record
length of
spur to
nearest $\frac{1}{8}$ of
an inch.

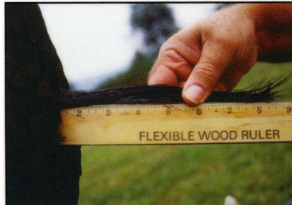


ADULT
spurs are
generally
longer
than $\frac{1}{2}$ ".



JUVENILE
spurs are
generally
shorter than
 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

BEARD - beards grow as the turkey gets older.

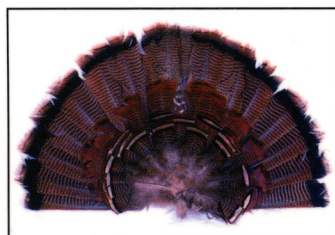


Measure the
beard from
the point of
attachment
to end of
beard.



ADULT
beards are
generally
longer than
6".

TAIL - fan the tail and look at the central tail feathers.



ADULT
tail fan is
symmetrical.
Central tail
feathers are
the same
length as the
rest of the tail
feathers.



JUVENILE
tail fan is not
symmetrical.
Central tail
feathers are
longer than the
rest of the tail
feathers.

This poster was funded by the Maine Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation.

