



Turkey Tactics & Tips

Pre-Season

- Scout the property you have permission for well before the season starts.
- Check out the property on Google Earth or iHunter – Look for natural travel corridors, pinch points, creeks and valleys as most animals will use these.
- Get your boots on the ground and look for sign. Knowing where they roost and where they feed are important. Use binoculars and keep your distance!
- Try a locator call to find birds. A crow, hawk or owl call will work prior to the season. Using turkey calls when not hunting will only educate the birds on your property

Early Season

- Get out the night before and follow the flock to its roost site. Stay a good distance away and use binoculars! This is called putting them to bed – and the goal is to be able to pin point the roost so you can set up within a few hundred yards of it the next morning!
- Hunting morning – Get out into the woods well before sunrise and set up quietly. You should set up as close to the roost location as possible without being noticed. Ideally a tom will hear your hen clucks and see your decoys and come in to investigate when he flies down out of his tree.
- Mid morning...No bird yet? Consider changing to a *run and gun* tactic. Use your locator call, find a bird and quickly set up under cover. (Be mindful of other hunters on the property, safety is always first!)

Mid-Season

- Still no bird? What has gone right and what has gone wrong so far? Birds flying down but going another direction? Birds hanging up out of range? Are you set up in the right spot? Are you using the appropriate sequence of calls? Are you using the same calls? It's time to start switching up and try something new. Different calls, different decoy set ups – maybe in the woods instead of in the fields – these are just a few suggestions.

Late Season

The toms and jakes have been fighting over the girls all season, they will be tired of the other males. They will have heard all calls and seen all decoys. Use your woodsmanship skills and sneak right in tight to the roosting area – hunting without calling or using any decoys in their travel corridors later in the day is an effective strategy as well. Don't over call!

All Season Tips

- Use your decoys to mark distance – Be mindful of a clear and ethical shot. This is a great way to make sure they are within range!
- Don't point the decoys towards you, this may alert the real birds to your location.
- Hunt in the rain/snow or after a storm system has passed! Birds don't like the noise from the rain and will get out of the bush. They will also be hungry and looking to get out after a storm!
- Late afternoon and early evening hunts are not as much about calling. Breeding is over and they are less likely to respond to calls. Try to find where they are, determine where they are going and get in their path! (Ambush hunt)

Good luck in the turkey woods, take your kids hunting and always... Keep it Real!