

Turkey Calls

Suggested Number of Volunteers: 1-2

Materials in Activity Tub:

- Turkey Calls
 - Slate Call (3)
 - Box Call (3)
- “Sounds of the Wild Turkey” Poster
- Images of Wild Turkeys (4)

Materials Provided by the Group:

- none

Objectives

Students will:

1. Learn about Wild Turkeys and the history of turkeys in Nebraska.
2. Learn about the different calls of turkeys and how they can be used to attract mates.

Background:

Wild Turkeys are a common game species in Nebraska. But, this was not always the case. In the early 1900’s, Wild Turkeys were extirpated from Nebraska. This means that because of over-hunting, there were no more Wild Turkeys left in the state of Nebraska.

Due to concerted efforts, Wild Turkeys were brought back to Nebraska through the introduction of several species of turkeys. Today, the Wild Turkeys in Nebraska are one of several sub-species or a hybrid.

Getting to know Wild Turkeys is a fun and engaging way to go wildlife viewing. Learning Wild Turkey calls can help wildlife enthusiasts know where Wild Turkeys are located in the habitat and what the turkeys are doing.

This activity introduces participants to Wild Turkeys and their numerous calls.

Procedure:

Before the Activity

Place the three types of turkey calls on the table along with the “Sounds of the Wild Turkey” Poster and images of Wild Turkeys.

The Activity

1. When participants come to the station, talk with them about the different calls of the Wild Turkey. Explain that there are lots of different calls Wild Turkeys use to communicate.

At this station, participants will be able to try using two different calls - the box call, and the slate call.

2. Allow participants time to experiment with the calls. Once participants have had some time to experiment, begin showing them different ways to use each of the calls and how the calls can be used to mimic the different calls of the Wild Turkey.