**TURKEY CALLING - MISSOURI RIVER OUTDOOR EXPO, 2020**

1. **History**
2. Native to North America
3. Fossils indicate it was here over 5 million years ago
4. U.S. population was estimated at 30,000 birds in 1930
5. Turkeys extirpated from in Nebraska in 1915
6. Turkeys reintroduced in Nebraska in spring of 1959
7. Nebraska turkey population grew to 3,000 by 1962 and first hunting season was held in that year.
8. U.S. population now estimated at 7-10 million birds and found in all states but Alaska.
9. Approximately 2.5 million turkey hunters in U.S.
10. Nebraska has about 36,000 turkey hunters that take about 20,000 birds annually.
11. **Description**
12. Adult males are called Toms or Gobblers. Young males are called Jakes.
13. Adult females are called Hens
14. Turkey chicks are called poults
15. Adult males weigh 15-25 lbs.
16. Adult females weigh 10-15 lbs.
17. Turkeys have 5,000 – 6,000 feathers and they are somewhat iridescent.
18. Males (and a few females) have a beard of coarse hair growing from the middle of their chests.
19. Males have spurs on their legs that grow longer and sharper as the birds age.
20. All turkeys have a snood which is a fleshy flap on top of bill that expands when they are excited.
21. **Habits**
22. Turkeys are very social birds and are usually found in flocks.
23. Poults travel in family groups with Mom, often combining with other families.
24. In winter, large flocks numbering over 300 birds, gather in an area with a good food supply.
25. Adult turkeys scratch and consume Insects and seeds. They also consume gravel or small rocks that goes into an organ called a gizzard that breaks down the seeds.
26. Turkeys feed primarily in early morning and late afternoon.
27. Hen turkeys lay a clutch of 10-14 eggs.
28. Incubation is done entirely by the hen and takes about 28 days with the peak of the hatch in early June.
29. The hen leads the young turkeys away from the nest site shortly after hatching and the young begin to forage on insects.
30. Nest and poultry predators include several mammals, snakes, and birds of prey. Most mortality occurs in their first 14-days.
31. Turkeys roost overnight in tall trees. Young birds begin to fly in about 3-weeks and join the adults in tree tops.
32. Turkeys have great eyesight and hearing but a poor sense of smell.
33. **Habitat**
34. Turkeys prefer mixed forest with grass and herbaceous openings.
35. Turkeys nest on the ground usually in grasslands but occasionally in timbered areas.
36. Undisturbed nest sites can be a limiting factor.
37. **Turkey Sounds**
38. Turkeys make a great deal of noise unless they are frightened.
39. They make 28 distinct calls.
40. Male turkeys gobble in the spring when trying to attract females.
41. The “YELP” is the most common call made by both males and females. They also cluck, putt, whine, purr, cackle, and youngsters make what is known as a “kee-kee” run.
42. A loud “PUTT” call is an alarm call.
43. **Turkey Calls**
44. Box
45. Slate
46. Diaphragm
47. Wingbone
48. Shock Calls
49. Making turkey call from a drinking straw and paper or plastic cup.