

# TRACKS & SIGNS

## TURKEY

### PRINT DESCRIPTION

**Size: 4"**

Turkey feet have three toes that point forward and a fourth one, which faces backward. This hind toe, called a hallux, does not always show in the tracks but can leave a small indentation from the nail. It is possible to determine if a track belongs to the right or left foot by finding the mark left by the hallux. On tracks from the left foot, the hallux imprint would be on the right side of the track and vice versa.

Sometimes you can find detailed tracks that show patterns on the toes. Turkey toes have a pebbly texture that you are more likely to observe in tracks left in mud or fine soil. Another feature that does not always show in tracks is their metatarsal pad. This pad is located where the three front toes come together and can leave a round imprint in the center of the foot.

Turkeys spend much of their time walking and have a stride length of 8 to 14 inches. The stride length is the distance between one set of prints and the next. When turkeys run, the stride length can be up to 33 inches long.



### OTHER SIGNS

- Turkey scat is cylindrical in shape with blunt ends and its diameter is slightly bigger than a penny. If the droppings are fresh, you can discern vegetable and insect remains that the turkey ate.
- You can tell the gender of a turkey by examining its scat! The feces of male turkeys is J-shaped, while female droppings look more like a spiral.