

afternoon turkey hunting tactics

Afternoon Turkey Hunting Tactics: Mastering the Evening Chase

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Introduction: Unlocking the Secrets of Afternoon Turkey Hunting Tactics

Many hunters focus their efforts on the morning hours, missing out on the potentially lucrative afternoon turkey hunting tactics. While mornings often offer the advantage of birds being more vocal, the afternoon presents a unique set of opportunities for the skilled hunter. Understanding the nuances of afternoon turkey hunting tactics is crucial to maximizing your success. This comprehensive guide delves into proven strategies, techniques, and considerations for consistently bagging gobblers during the afternoon hours.

Understanding Turkey Behavior in the Afternoon

Afternoon turkey hunting tactics require a keen understanding of turkey behavior. As the day progresses, turkeys often shift their activity. After their midday rest, they start moving again, often in search of food and water. This movement can provide prime shooting opportunities if you understand where and when they'll be. This is where sound afternoon turkey hunting tactics come into play.

1. Location, Location, Location: Afternoon Roosting and Feeding Habits: Turkeys often roost in trees or dense cover in the late afternoon, preparing for the night. Understanding the likely roosting areas within your hunting area is crucial. Afternoon turkey hunting tactics hinge on anticipating their descent from the roost and their subsequent movement to feeding areas. This often leads to birds being less vocal in the afternoon, making visual spotting crucial.

1. The Importance of Scouting: Effective afternoon turkey hunting tactics begin long before the hunt itself. Thorough scouting, identifying potential feeding areas, water sources, and travel routes, will greatly increase your chances of success. Look for signs of recent activity – tracks, droppings, and feather droppings – to pinpoint high-traffic zones where afternoon turkey hunting tactics can be employed.

1. Afternoon Calling Strategies: While morning hunts often rely heavily on aggressive calling, afternoon turkey hunting tactics frequently necessitate a more subtle approach. Use soft clucks, purrs, and occasional yelps to entice wary birds. Overcalling can spook birds in the afternoon; patience and subtlety are key.

1. Visual Hunting Techniques: Given the decreased vocalization in the afternoon, visual hunting becomes paramount. Use natural concealment effectively. Blend with your surroundings, utilizing camouflage clothing and natural blinds to your advantage. Slow, deliberate movements are essential when attempting to spot birds visually.

1. Utilizing the Afternoon Light: The lower angle of the afternoon sun can cast long shadows, making it easier to spot turkeys in open areas. Utilize this to your advantage by positioning yourself strategically to take advantage of this natural light. Afternoon turkey hunting tactics often involve waiting for the birds to silhouette against the setting sun.

Advanced Afternoon Turkey Hunting Tactics

1. Strategic Setups: Choosing the right location for your afternoon ambush is crucial. Set up near established trails, feeding areas, or water sources where birds are likely to move during the late afternoon. Consider the wind direction, ensuring your scent doesn't carry toward potential birds.
1. Utilizing Decoys: Decoys can be very effective during afternoon turkey hunting. A lone hen decoy, or a combination of a hen and a jake, can pique the interest of a wary tom and bring him closer for a shot. However, using decoys effectively requires strategic placement considering the terrain and bird activity.
1. Patience is Key: Afternoon turkey hunting requires patience. Turkeys are often less vocal and more cautious during the later hours. Be prepared to wait for extended periods, keeping your position and camouflage impeccable.
1. Adapting to Weather Conditions: Afternoon weather can be unpredictable. Adjust your tactics according to the conditions. Heat can make birds seek shade, while rain might drive them into thicker cover. Understanding the impact of weather on turkey behavior is a core element of successful afternoon turkey hunting tactics.

Conclusion

Mastering afternoon turkey hunting tactics requires a blend of understanding turkey behavior, employing effective calling and visual strategies, and exhibiting significant patience. By focusing on strategic setup, employing subtle calling, utilizing natural concealment, and adapting to changing conditions, you can significantly increase your chances of success. Remember, scouting, patience, and a keen understanding of turkey habits in the afternoon are the cornerstones of a successful hunt.

FAQs

1. What time is the best time to hunt turkeys in the afternoon? The ideal time is typically between 3:00 PM and sunset, as turkeys often become more active after their midday rest.

1. What calls are most effective for afternoon turkey hunting? Soft clucks, purrs, and occasional yelps are generally more effective than aggressive yelping and gobbling.

1. How important is camouflage during afternoon turkey hunting? Camouflage is crucial, as turkeys rely heavily on vision to avoid predators and are highly perceptive of movement.

1. Are decoys effective for afternoon hunts? Yes, decoys can be highly effective when used strategically, often prompting curious toms to investigate.

1. What should I do if I don't see any turkeys in the afternoon? Try adjusting your position, calling strategy, or waiting longer. Remember that turkeys are not always active, especially in the afternoons.

1. How does wind affect afternoon turkey hunting tactics? Wind can carry your scent to turkeys, so choosing a strategic position downwind of your intended hunting area is essential.

1. What kind of gear do I need for an afternoon turkey hunt? You'll need a shotgun, camouflage clothing, calls (clucks, purrs, yelps), and potentially a decoy or two.

1. How important is scouting for afternoon turkey hunts? Scouting is crucial to identify feeding areas, roosting sites, and likely travel routes of turkeys.

1. What are some common mistakes to avoid during afternoon turkey hunts? Overcalling, poor concealment, and impatience are common mistakes that can scare away turkeys.

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afternoon turkey hunting tactics: The Old Pro Turkey Hunter Gene Nunnery, 2018-10-18

During his life, Gene Nunnery was recognized as a master turkey hunter and an artisan who crafted unique, almost irresistible turkey calls. In *The Old Pro Turkey Hunter*, the vaunted sportsman shares over fifty years of personal experience in Mississippi and surrounding states, along with the decades-old wisdom of the huntsmen who taught him. Throughout the book, his stories make clear that turkey hunting is more than just killing the bird—it is about matching wits with a wild and savvy adversary. As Nunnery explains, “To me that’s what it’s all about: finding a wise old gobbler who will test your skill as a turkey hunter.” Through his stories, Nunnery reveals that the true reward for successful turkey hunting lies in winning the contest, not necessarily exterminating the foe. Real sportsmen know that every now and then the turkey should and will elude the hunter. As Nunnery looks back on his extensive career, he analyzes vast differences in practice, old and new. The shift, he decides, came during his last twenty years on the hunt, and that difference has only increased in the decades since this book was originally published. Michael O. Giles, Bass Pro staff team member, master turkey hunter, and award-winning outdoors writer and author of *Passion of the Wild*, writes a new foreword that brings the practice of turkey hunting into the present day. Filled with a tested mixture of common sense and specific examples of how master turkey hunters honor their harvest and heritage, *The Old Pro Turkey Hunter* is the perfect companion for the novice or the adept.

afternoon turkey hunting tactics: The MeatEater Guide to Wilderness Skills and

Survival Steven Rinella, 2020-12-01 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • An indispensable guide to surviving everything from an extended wilderness exploration to a day-long boat trip, with hard-earned advice from the host of Netflix’s *MeatEater* For anyone planning to spend time outside, *The MeatEater Guide to Wilderness Skills and Survival* is the perfect antidote to the sensationalism of the modern survival genre. Informed by the real-life experiences of renowned outdoorsman Steven Rinella, its pages are packed with tried-and-true tips, techniques, and gear recommendations. Among other skills, readers will learn about old-school navigation and essential satellite tools, how to build a basic first-aid kit and apply tourniquets, and how to effectively purify water using everything from ancient methods to cutting-edge technologies. This essential guide delivers hard-won insights and know-how garnered from Rinella’s own experiences and mistakes and from his trusted crew of expert hunters, anglers, emergency-room doctors, climbers, paddlers, and wilderness guides—with the goal of making any reader feel comfortable and competent while out in the wild.

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afternoon turkey hunting tactics: *American Buffalo* Steven Rinella, 2008-12-02 From the host of the Travel Channel's "The Wild Within." A hunt for the American buffalo—an adventurous, fascinating examination of an animal that has haunted the American imagination. In 2005, Steven Rinella won a lottery permit to hunt for a wild buffalo, or American bison, in the Alaskan wilderness. Despite the odds—there's only a 2 percent chance of drawing the permit, and fewer than 20 percent of those hunters are successful—Rinella managed to kill a buffalo on a snow-covered mountainside and then raft the meat back to civilization while being trailed by grizzly bears and suffering from hypothermia. Throughout these adventures, Rinella found himself contemplating his own place among the 14,000 years' worth of buffalo hunters in North America, as well as the buffalo's place in the American experience. At the time of the Revolutionary War, North America was home to approximately 40 million buffalo, the largest herd of big mammals on the planet, but by the mid-1890s only a few hundred remained. Now that the buffalo is on the verge of a dramatic ecological recovery across the West, Americans are faced with the challenge of how, and if, we can dare to share our land with a beast that is the embodiment of the American wilderness. *American Buffalo* is a narrative tale of Rinella's hunt. But beyond that, it is the story of the many ways in which the buffalo has shaped our national identity. Rinella takes us across the continent in search of the buffalo's past, present, and future: to the Bering Land Bridge, where scientists search for buffalo bones amid artifacts of the New World's earliest human inhabitants; to buffalo jumps where Native Americans once ran buffalo over cliffs by the thousands; to the Detroit Carbon works, a "bone charcoal" plant that made fortunes in the late 1800s by turning millions of tons of buffalo bones into bone meal, black dye, and fine china; and even to an abattoir turned fashion mecca in Manhattan's Meatpacking District, where a depressed buffalo named Black Diamond met his fate after serving as the model for the American nickel. Rinella's erudition and exuberance, combined with his gift for storytelling, make him the perfect guide for a book that combines outdoor adventure with a quirky blend of facts and observations about history, biology, and the natural world. Both a captivating narrative and a book of environmental and historical significance, *American Buffalo* tells us as much about ourselves as Americans as it does about the creature who perhaps best of all embodies the American ethos.

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the lesser known but critical watershed moments in American history.

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Bartylla has never relied on outfitter to put him on trophy bucks. Instead, he relies on his own scouting and hunting skills. *Big Buck Secrets* draws from Bartylla's years of successful do-it-yourself hunting for trophy whitetails on both public and private land. This book is grounded in that experience to help you take your deer hunting to the next level with comprehensive instruction on: • Scouting new hunting areas • Understanding mature buck behavior • Hunting during the rut • Utilizing decoys • Aggressive and creative techniques to deal with hunting pressure • And much more! All aimed to put you on the biggest bucks of your life! Hard work and in-depth knowledge of whitetails, understanding how they utilize terrain and seeking pockets where mature bucks exist, are the tools Bartylla relies on most--and shares with you in *Big Buck Secrets*.

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trout, and panfish; how to gather wild berries, nuts, and mushrooms; how to grow vegetables and fruits and protect them from other foragers such as deer; and how to raise heritage chickens and protect them, as well, from predators that could include opossums, foxes, and hawks. The book features dozens of tasty and healthful recipes. They include more than 20 ways to cook and enjoy venison; several ways to savor squirrels and rabbits; a dozen recipes for wild berry and fruit dishes, including pancakes, waffles, cakes, breads, jams, and cookies; and still more recipes for preparing wild nuts, mushrooms, and fresh-water fish.

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which no nation-state or other entity can hope to compete through conventional means. The alternative is what is now called asymmetrical or fourth generation warfare. Drew and Snow discuss all these factors in detail and bring them together by examining the continuing problems of making strategy in a changed and changing world. Originally published in 2006.

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