

2. Turkey Tale

*Based on Two Traditional Folk Melodies
Additional Words and Music by Hap Palmer*

A turkey ran away before Thanksgiving Day
Saying, "You would make a meal of me if I would stay." And it
ran, and it ran, and it ran, and it ran
Through the ice and freezing snow
And it ran, and it ran, and it ran, and it ran
As fast as it could go

Thanksgiving Day at the crack of dawn
The farmer shouted, "The turkey's gone!"
He followed its tracks to the barn next door
Where a stack of hay was piled on the floor

Turkey in the straw, Turkey in the hay
Hiding from the farmer Thanksgiving day
Roll 'em up, twist 'em up, high tuck-a-haw
And sing a little tune called Turkey in the Straw

The farmer looked high the farmer looked low
Said, "Where in the world did that bird go?"
With a gobble, gobble, gobble, the turkey teased
You can't find me and I'll do as I please

Turkey in the straw, Turkey in the hay
Hiding from the farmer Thanksgiving day
Roll 'em up, twist 'em up, high tuck-a-haw
And sing a little tune called Turkey in the Straw

The turkey popped up. The farmer dove in.
Hay and feathers went flyin' in the wind
All day long they circled around
'Til the farmer tripped and tumbled down

The turkey snuck away and did not make a sound
With silent steps it crept away and never more was found

This song is based on two traditional folk melodies. The first verse is the song "A Turkey Ran Away." The next verses adapt the melody of the well-known song, "Turkey In The Straw." The last verse returns to a quiet adaptation of the melody for "A Turkey Ran Away."

Hand motions are easy to add:

- 1. When the turkey runs fast, quickly clap your hands or pat your legs.*
- 2. Flap your hands as you sing along with the chorus, "Turkey in the straw turkey in the hay ... "*
- 3. Roll your fists with a circular hand over hand rolling motion and shake your hands high as you sing, "Roll 'em up, twist 'em up, high tuck-a-haw ... "*
- 4. In the last verse, clap your hands or pat your legs very softly as the turkey sneaks away.*

Using the instrumental version, you can change the words slightly and sing this song for Christmas. The first verse becomes:

*A turkey ran away before a Christmas day
Saying, "You would make a meal of me if I would stay . . . "*

In the second part of the song you can sing:

*Turkey in the straw
Turkey in the hay
Hiding from the farmer on Christmas day*

