



Florida (Osceola) Wild Turkey

Wild Turkey *(Meleagris gallopavo)*

Instant ID

- A large, brown bird with a featherless head
- Males have iridescent (reflective) feathers and will fan out tail
- Females lack large tail and bold coloration
- Wild turkeys can fly, but are more commonly seen walking

Native Niches

- Found in forests and adjoining areas throughout Florida
- Commonly seen in areas cleared, but not frequented by humans, such as power line easements and road shoulders

Favorite Foods

- Eats nuts, berries and seeds
- Also eats buds, insects and small reptiles



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Critter Characteristics

- Males will intensify the color of their heads by filling vessels in the skin with blood
- A subspecies, the Osceola turkey, is endemic to (only found in) the peninsular region of Florida
- Males make distinctive gobbles and drumming sounds
- Males are bright and noisy to attract females
- Females are drab in color and quieter, which aids in raising their young

Population Protection

- Setting aside and managing habitat is the best way to protect turkey populations

