

Wild Turkey

Charismatic Macro Fauna?

Agricultural Nuisance?

Charismatic Macro Fauna Nuisance?



Wild Turkey?



Turkey Damage?





Wild Turkey Legal Status

- Classified as an upland game bird by the California Fish and Game Code
- Can be harvested during regular hunting seasons fall and spring
 - Fall – 1 either sex turkey per day, 1 per season.
 - Spring – 1 bearded turkey per day, 3 per season.
 - <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/regulations/current/uplandgamebirdregs.asp>



Legal Methods of Take

- Shotgun
- Archery
- Air Rifle (0.20 caliber minimum for taking wild turkey)

- It is Illegal to poison nuisance turkeys.



Depredation Permit Required

Outside of Regular Hunting Seasons

- Wild Turkey
- Black Bear
- Gray Squirrels
- Wild Pigs
- Deer
- Elk
- Beaver
- Mountain Lion
- Depredation Permits are issued by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)
- Contact Yountville Office @ 707 944-5500 or:
- Contact the Ag. Commissioners Office @ 707 565-2371 for help.



Homeowners

- Should not feed wild turkeys. A few cute birds soon turns into an unmanageable large flock.
- Turkeys can lose their fear of humanity and become aggressive.
- Droppings create a mess and a health concern.
- Birds destroy gardens and scratch cars when they roost.
- Homeowners can also request depredation permits for nuisance turkeys.



Discharging a Firearm

- Fish and Game Code 3004
 - It is unlawful for any person, other than the owner, person in possession of the premises, or a person having the express permission of the owner or person in possession of the premises, to hunt or to discharge while hunting, any firearm or other deadly weapon within 150 yards of any occupied dwelling house, residence, or other building or any barn or other outbuilding used in connection therewith.
 - 150 yards is the “safety zone”.



Harassment

- Dogs
- Motion detecting sprinklers
- ATV's
- Shell Crackers (shot from a special pistol or a shotgun)

- Important to break patterns early as birds become habituated.



Online Shell Cracker and Bird Bomb Suppliers

- Margo Supplies
 - info@margosupplies.com
- Bird Barrier
 - www.birdbarrier.com
- Stoneco Inc.
 - <http://originalshellcracker.com>
- Wildlife Control Technologies
 - www.wildlife-control.com

Also check with local vineyard product suppliers.



Caution

- Before using bird bombs, whistlers, or shellcrackers, read through the distributors website to access the best management practices.
- If used inappropriately these tools can cause fires and bodily injury.



Exclusion

- Deer fencing will discourage wild turkeys.
- Agricultural Office turkey population dropped significantly with the installation of a cyclone fence.



Further Information

- California Department of Fish and Game website
www.keepmewild.org.
- Downloadable information on turkeys, wild pigs, bear, etc...



Wild Turkeys Don't Need Your Handouts!

Feeding wild turkeys is asking for trouble – not only for you, but for your neighbors as well. Prevent problems by discouraging wild turkeys from becoming too comfortable on your property.

- If turkeys begin feeding under hanging bird feeders, remove the feeders until the turkeys leave the area.
- If turkeys are causing problems in your yard, install motion-detecting sprinklers.
- Wild turkeys typically will not enter yards with dogs.
- If confronted by a wild turkey that has lost its fear of humans, an open umbrella may help steer it out of your path.
- Depredation permits are required to kill wild turkeys that are causing property damage. To get a depredation permit, contact your local Department of Fish & Game office.

Please respect and protect wild animals. Keep them wild.

www.keepmewild.org

For More Information

Contact the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG)

Sacramento Headquarters – (916) 653-6420

Northern California, North Coast Region
Redding – (530) 225-2300

Sacramento Valley, Central Sierra Region
Rancho Cordova – (916) 358-2900

Central Coast Region
Napa – (707) 944-5500

San Joaquin Valley, Southern Sierra Region
Fresno – (559) 243-4005 ext. 151

South Coast Region
San Diego – (858) 467-4201

Eastern Sierra, Inland Deserts Region
Ontario – (909) 484-0167

Alternate communication methods are available upon request. If reasonable accommodation is needed, contact the Department of Fish and Game, (916) 653-6420, lbernard@dfg.ca.gov, or the California Relay Service serving deaf and hearing-impaired residents using TTY/TDD phones, and speech-impaired callers, at (800) 735-2929.



A campaign for all wild animals.



KEEP ME WILD™

Feeding Wildlife is Dead Wrong.



California Department of Fish and Game

Developed by Communicative Inc., San Francisco

Feeding Wild Turkeys Will Bring Problems Home to Roost.

California's wild turkeys now occupy about 18 percent of our state, and are a highly valued upland game bird. Many Californians also enjoy watching them.

Some homeowners can't resist feeding them. That's when trouble begins. A few stray visitors soon become a flock of permanent residents that have lost their natural fear of humans.

Adult wild turkeys, which can weigh upwards of 20 pounds, can destroy flowers and vegetable gardens, leave their droppings on patios and decks, and roost on cars, scratching the paint.

Turkeys can become aggressive during the breeding season, occasionally even charging, threatening, and acting aggressively toward people.

Relocating nuisance wild turkeys is expensive and impractical. But preventing conflicts is simple.

Wild turkeys don't need your handouts.

They need your respect.



Controlling Wild Turkey Populations

California's wild turkey populations are healthy and growing. Hunting turkeys helps to control their populations and maintain their natural wariness of people. Where safe and legal, hunt wild turkeys on your property, or allow others to hunt them.

- Spring season: season limit is three gobblers per hunter (one per day)
- Fall season: season limit is one turkey per hunter (gobbler or hen)
- A hunting license and upland game bird stamp are required
- Legal methods of take include shotgun, archery equipment, or air rifle
- Hunting regulations are available from DFG offices and online at www.dfg.ca.gov

Homeowners experiencing property damage from wild turkeys may obtain a depredation permit from the local DFG office.

Keep them wild.

Feeding wild turkeys can cause major problems for you and your neighbors.



Wild turkeys are well established in about 29,000 square miles of California.



You Can Help Wildlife

Please visit www.keepmewild.org for downloadable posters, newspaper advertisements and other Keep Me Wild™ materials.



National Wild Turkey Federation

Provide good information on turkey biology, distribution, etc.

- Promote opportunities for their members to hunt turkeys including making arrangements with private land owners for access and insurance purposes.
- <http://www.nwtf.org>



Hunting Lease Liability Insurance

- Available through
 - Forest Landowners Association's Outdoor Risk Services
 - Work through a partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation
 - (800) 658-7047 or on the web @
 - <https://www.forestlandowners.com/>



Local Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation

- Geyserville, CA
Wine Country, CA
Patrick McNeil
(707) 443-4720
patnwtf@yahoo.com

Wild Turkey Sub-species and their Ranges

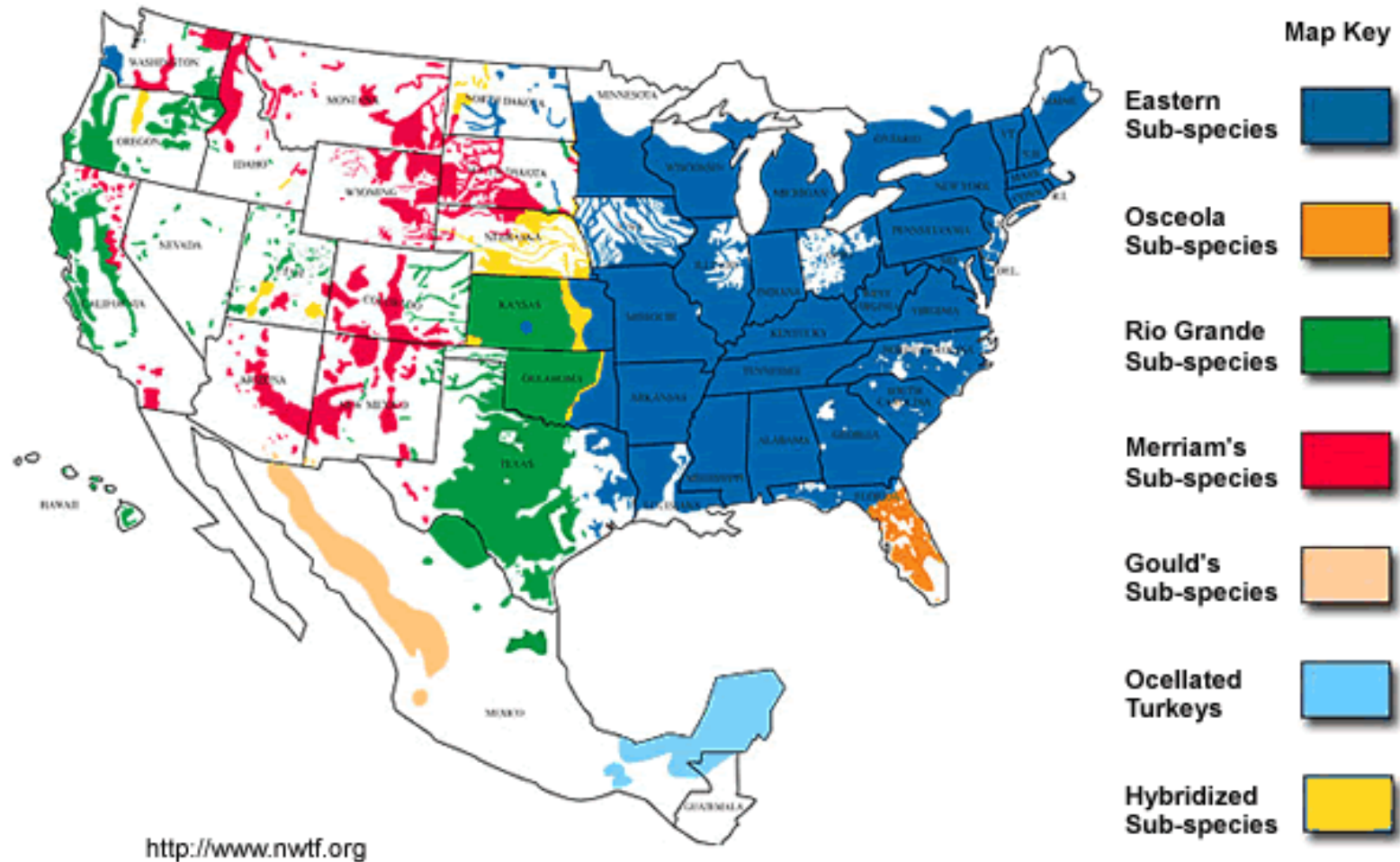


Image provided by the National Wild Turkey Federation

Wild Turkey population

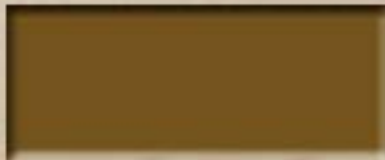
across
North America

More than
7 Million



TODAY

1.3 Million



1973



Provided by: National Wild Turkey Federation