



Photo by: Scott Root, UDWR

Help keep turkeys wild by not offering them handouts.

For more information visit:
www.wildawareutah.org

During the spring breeding season, wild turkeys can become bold and aggressive. They will sometimes charge and chase people and pets. The best way to avoid aggressive encounters with turkeys is to prevent the birds from becoming habituated to humans in the first place.

Encountering bold turkeys:

- Stay calm and do not become intimidated.
- Wave a jacket, umbrella, or walking stick or to steer the birds out of your path.
- Hike with a leashed dog, turkeys will naturally avoid dogs.
- Drive turkeys off with loud, intermittent noises.
- Spray aggressive turkeys with a garden hose.

If you find a sick or injured turkey here is a link to find an authorized Utah wildlife rehabilitator:

<http://wildlife.utah.gov/dwr/grazing/258-wildlife-rehabilitators.html>

If you have issues with turkeys you cannot resolve following these tips contact the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources office near you.

Cedar City	(435) 865-6100	Salt Lake City	(801) 538-4700
Ogden	(801) 476-2740	Springville	(801) 491-5678
Price	(435) 613-3700	Vernal	(435) 781-9453



WILD AWARE UTAH

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WELCOME TO TURKEY COUNTRY

Some tips on how to avoid conflicts

Photo by: Scott Root, UDWR

Wild Aware Utah

Launched in 2010, Wild Aware Utah (WAU) is a non-advocacy conservation program working through collaborative efforts to provide proactive education to minimize conflict between people and wildlife.

www.wildawareutah.org

Turkeys can be exciting to watch. However, intentionally or unintentionally feeding turkeys, often leads to conflict between turkeys and people. Inviting wild turkeys to your property can cause problems for you and your neighbors, as well as disrupting the bird's natural foraging and migration patterns. Removing nuisance turkeys from an area is not always practical.

The best way to avoid conflicts with wildlife is to prevent issues from arising in the first place.

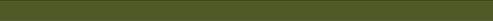


Photo by: Stephanie Jochum-Natt, UHZ



Track

Track 3.5 to 4.5 inches long



Photo by: UDWR

Share the Wild - Living with Wildlife

- Do not feed or approach wild turkeys.
- Remove attractants such as fallen fruit or vegetables.
- Replace bird feeders with feeders designed to contain seed and not allow it to spill onto the ground.
- Cover up windows or reflective objects if you find turkeys pecking at them.
- Turn on sprinklers to encourage a flock to move on.
- Own one or more dogs. Turkeys will rarely enter yards with dogs.
- Keep domestic turkeys in enclosed pens to avoid transferring disease to or from wild turkeys.

Protect Your Garden:

Turkeys can destroy gardens and flowers beds while foraging for food or dusting.

- Fence gardens and compost piles, or cover with polypropylene bird netting.
- Install scarecrows, predator decoys or "scare eyes" and move them frequently.
- Noisemakers can be effective.

Prevent Roosting:

Roosting turkeys can leave droppings on decks, lawns and vehicles.

- Install commercial "bird spikes" on roosting areas.

Work together; it will take the efforts of the entire neighborhood to help keep wild turkeys wild.

Be Wild Aware Turkey Facts

Two subspecies of wild turkey are found in Utah, the Rio Grande and the Merriam's wild turkey. The Rio Grande subspecies was introduced into Utah in 1984. Rio populations can be found throughout Utah from Box Elder County in the north to Utah County in central Utah and San Juan and Iron counties in southern Utah. The Merriam's turkey was historically native to Utah. They were successfully reintroduced in 1952. Merriam's populations can be found in Beaver, Garfield, Grand, Iron, Kane, Piute, San Juan, Washington and Wayne counties. Rios are typically found in cottonwood and other riparian habitats, while Merriam's prefer ponderosa pine habitats.

Male turkeys weigh an average of 17-21 pounds and females average 8-10 pounds. Rios can be distinguished from the Merriam's by the coloration of the tips of the tail feathers in the upper tail coverts (feathers of the lower back, covering the base of the tail feathers). In the Rio Grande bird, these feather tips are buff or tan, contrasting with the white tips of the Merriam's subspecies.

Turkeys eat vegetation, seeds and insects. Male turkeys are called "toms" and females are called "hens." Breeding season begins in early spring. The gobbling of the tom serves as a challenge to other males and attracts females to his territory. Nests are usually located near brushy cover with a convenient escape route. On average, 10 to 11 eggs are laid in the nest. The incubation period is 28 days.

Legal Status

Wild turkeys are classified as protected wildlife in Utah.



Photo Jameson Weston, UHZ