

SOME TURKEY TRIVIA !

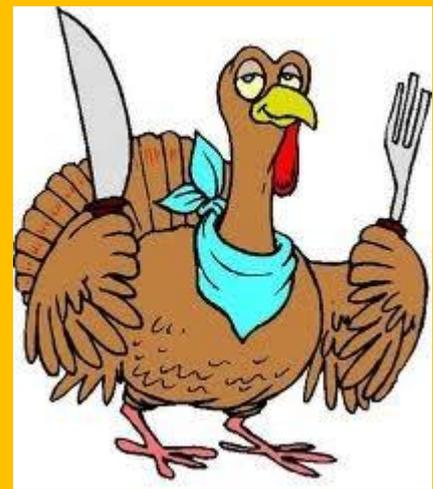


"I hate turkeys. If you stand in the meat section at the grocery store long enough, you start to get mad at turkeys. There's turkey ham, turkey bologna, turkey pastrami. Someone needs to tell the turkey, 'Man, just be yourself.' "



Some statistics:

According to the US Department of Agriculture more than 45 million turkeys are cooked and eaten in the U.S. at Thanksgiving.
In 2011, more than 248 million turkeys were expected to be raised.
Average live weight per bird → 28 pounds
Close to 6 billion pounds of turkey will be processed. (see above quote)
In 1970, only 105 million birds were raised (average live weight→17 pounds)
In 2002, retail sales of turkey were approximately \$3.6 billion. In 2010, sales reached \$4.37 billion.

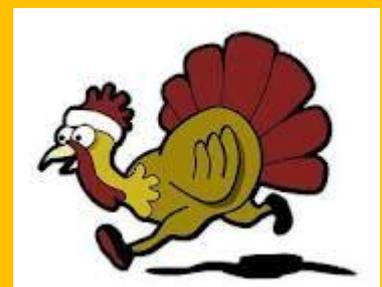


In our own English language we can voice in a variety of ways, but, who would have thought that the lowly turkey also has a large number of sound-making habits. It can

Gobble	Yelp
Cluck	Putt
Cackle	Squeal
Whine	Purr

A very versatile bird!

While domesticated turkeys cannot fly, wild turkeys can fly for short distances at speeds up to 55 miles per hour. They can also reach speeds of 25 miles per hour on the ground. Not only that, but they can Strut, Spit, Drum, and at the end of the day, turn in to Roost.



Geography: And Why, pray tell, do the French call a Turkey, a *d'Inde*?



The bird we today call a turkey is native to America. Yet, how did it become associated with the country of Turkey? There are many theories...

The Native American name for turkey is 'firkee'; some say this is how turkeys got their name. Simple facts, however, sometimes produce the best answers—when a turkey is scared, it makes a "turk, turk, turk" noise.



The American wildfowl is not the only bird called a turkey. The guinea fowl, native to Africa was brought to Europe via Turkey...Upon arriving in America, the settlers noticed similarities between the two birds and called the American bird Turkey.

Another story is that Christopher Columbus named it *tuka*, after the Tamil word for "peacock." The two birds may not look very much alike to us, but the association isn't completely unfounded:

- They act the same. The males of both the peafowl and the turkey spread their tail feathers in mating displays, though the turkey's display is much less impressive.
- They sound the same. Both of them have unpleasant calls, a fact noted by the writer Motolinia who visited Mexico in the sixteenth century.
- They taste the same (according to at least three early reports, including that of Columbus).



At one time, the turkey and the bald eagle were each considered as the national symbol of America. Benjamin Franklin was one of those who argued passionately on behalf of the turkey.

