

Talkin' Turkey: Florida Needs Your Sightings!

If you see a wild turkey between now and **August 31**, don't keep it to yourself!

Florida Fish and Wildlife is tracking this year's nesting success and brood survival, and they need the community's help. Factors like unpredictable weather and local predators mean turkey numbers can fluctuate wildly from year to year.

By logging what you see, you become an active part of Florida's conservation team. Your quick report gives biologists the exact data required to manage and protect these beautiful birds statewide.

About Nesting and Brood Rearing

- In Florida, wild turkeys begin breeding in late February and early March.
- Egg laying usually begins in mid-to late March, though nesting dates can range from early March to June.
- Hens create a nest by scratching a shallow depression in the soil where she lays an average of 9 to 12 eggs.
- It takes approximately 12-13 days to lay the full clutch of eggs and another 26-28 days of continuous incubation for them to hatch. Hens do all the incubating and brood rearing.
- Newly hatched wild turkeys, called poults, are highly mobile and can feed themselves soon after hatching.
- Poults are flightless until they are about 2 weeks old and roost on the ground under the hen's wings and tail during that time. Between 2 to 4 weeks of age, they begin to fly into low branches or small trees to roost.
- Poults eat primarily insects during the summer. They need higher levels of protein for rapid growth and flight feather development.

Spot a turkey? Report it today and help keep Florida wild!

To participate in the Florida Wild Turkey Survey, visit:

<https://myfwc.com/hunting/turkey/brood-survey>