

Let's Talk Turkey!

By Dan Pemble, Kissimmee, Florida

Did you know that there are 5 subspecies of wild turkeys in North America? Throughout Florida, we find the Osceola turkey, 1 of the 5 subspecies. The Osceola turkey has the second to the lowest population of all subspecies and currently is estimated to number 80,000-100,000 birds. The most populous subspecies is the Eastern turkey with current numbers of 5.1-5.3 million. Turkeys can run up to 25 MPH and fly at approximately 55 MPH.

Most often we equate the American Thanksgiving holiday and its long weekend with a large meal that includes a beautifully-cooked "butterball", or other domestically-raised turkey (not the wild ones as described above).



**Kissimmee Bay Visitors
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Photo by Dan