



PHOTO BY DOUGLAS BEALL

A male wild turkey strutting to display his beautiful feathers.

Birds of Sisters Country

Douglas Beall
Correspondent

The wild turkey (*Meleagris Gallopavo*) is not a native species in Oregon. Introduced in 1961 by ODFW they are now well established in the pine forests around the Metolius Basin. The subspecies Rio Grande has had the most successful natural expansion, although the Merriam's also has a steady population.

Females lay 10-14 beige mottled eggs which hatch in approximately 28 days. Within 24 hours of hatching, the poults have left the nest. Insects, berries, seeds and all variety of nuts are common foraging foods in the turkey's diet.

They are agile flyers and usually fly low and for no more than a quarter-mile and roost in trees overnight.

The turkey came by its name through a misunderstanding. The English were shipped this bird by Turkish/

Spanish ships and therefore named it a "turkey."

Benjamin Franklin was a staunch supporter of the American wild turkey as the national bird and here is a short excerpt of a letter to his daughter Sarah Bache in 1784.

"For my own part I wish the bald eagle had not been chosen the representative of our country. He is a bird of bad moral character. He does not get his living honestly. You may have seen him perched on some dead tree near the river, where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the labour of the fishing hawk [osprey]; and when that diligent bird has at length taken a fish, and is bearing it to his nest for the support of his mate and young ones, the bald eagle pursues him and takes it from him."

Happy Thanksgiving, and for more turkey photos visit <http://abirdsingsbecauseithasasong.com/recent-journeys>.

Girls soccer names six to all-league

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The Lady Outlaws had six players selected to all-league teams, and senior Michaela Miller and junior Nika Chick were first-team picks.

Miller played at center midfield for the Outlaws. Michaela finished league with nine goals and five assists. She was runner-up for league MVP, just behind Cottage's talented and fast forward, Kianna Kemenway.

"Michaela excelled in ball control, winning balls out of the air, taking shots, and sending smart passes through the opponent's defense," said Coach Thomas Draxler. "She also had personal maturity, and a healthy perspective on the role soccer plays in her life."

Chick played at center-forward, scored 11 goals, and dished out five assists for the Outlaws during league.

"Nika had speed, dribbling magic, powerful shots with both feet, dangerous free kicks and corners, and the fearlessness to head the ball over and over," stated Draxler.

Marissa Young (senior) was a second-team selection. At one time or another during league, Marissa played every position on the field.

"Marissa stood out in the league for her aggression, her work ethic, her ability to dislodge the ball from opponents, and her imitable example of hungering for victory," said Draxler. "She had only one assist in the season, but the statistics don't accurately reflect how much positive influence she really had on the outcome of games."

Three players — Hannah Ceciliani, Taylor Schneider, and Olivia Stewart — were honorable mention.

Ceciliani (senior) played goalkeeper and sweeper. Hannah had two assists, which both came from free-kicks that she lofted into the box from quite a distance.

"Hannah had fast reflexes, and some great saves at keeper," said Draxler. "At sweeper, she controlled the back-line with exceptional game intelligence, distributed the ball well, and booted the ball further than anyone on the

team."

Schneider (senior) played at stopper for the Outlaws. Even from the stopper position, Taylor was able to score one goal.

"Taylor's skills included intercepting opponents' passes, covering back to plug up defensive gaps, and making smart drives up through the midfield," stated Draxler. "Also, she had a beautiful shot with her right, which she unfortunately didn't get to use enough from her position in the back."

Stewart rounds out the Outlaws' all-league selections. Olivia played at left-midfield and left-wing. She scored four goals and dished out two assists.

"Olivia out-performed everyone in her commitment to following up other players' shots on goal, which led to several points on the board for her," commented Draxler. "She also had solid skills with her left, her right, her head, and her trapping. Plus, she has a stand-out spirit for analyzing the opponent, and for focusing on the task at hand."

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