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Weather Watch

Cave Junction

| | |
|--|---|
| | Thursday, Nov. 22 Rain High --48 Low -- 46 |
| | Friday, Nov. 23 Rain High -- 51 Low -- 40 |
| | Saturday, Nov. 24 Mostly Cloudy High -- 50 Low -- 43 |
| | Sunday, Nov 25 Partly Cloudy High -- 54 Low -- 42 |
| | Monday, Nov 26 Partly Cloudy High -- 55 Low -- 45 |
| | Tuesday, Nov 27 Showers High -- 55 Low -- 46 |
| | Wednesday, Nov 28 PM Showers High -- 54 Low -- 44 |

Following are the high & low temperatures, and rainfall recorded at The End of the Road in O'Brien by Cheryl Johnson:

| Nov | High | Low | Rain |
|-----|------|------|------|
| 9 | 52.7 | 23.4 | |
| 10 | 54.0 | 25.8 | |
| 11 | 55.8 | 25.4 | |
| 12 | 52.2 | 24.8 | |
| 13 | 54.0 | 29.7 | |
| 14 | 53.0 | 26.8 | |
| 15 | 53.4 | 28.9 | |

Nov Rain: 0.02" YTD Rain: 2.89"

Crawlies with Cri: by Christy Solo

Let's talk turkey ... wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*). This week's crawly will be the "guest of honor" at many Thanksgiving dinners this week.

Fun fact: The most common Thanksgiving turkey, the broad-breasted white turkey, is the exact same species as the wild turkey. Like different breeds of dog, our "table turkeys" have been bred for specific qualities, so when we talk about wild or domestic turkeys it's like discussing labs or poodles.

If you've ever had to come to a stop in the middle of the road to wait for a flock of wild turkeys, or worse yet an angry tom, to meander their way to the other side, you might not think we're "lucky" to have wild turkeys here in Southern Oregon, but we are. Wild turkeys are only native to the eastern United States. The densest wild turkey populations are still found only as far west as the Arizona border, with isolated, introduced populations in several western states.

Wild turkeys were introduced as game birds, and because of their ability to adapt to new turf, the pocket populations have become quite stable. Wild turkeys don't migrate so the western populations stay fairly localized.

Turkey fossils dating



Wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*)

back 5 million years have been found in the southern United States and Mexico. These birds have staying power. Often thought of as kind of goofy, wild turkeys are quite clever and have more skills than commonly supposed. While we're used to seeing them strut around, they are excellent flyers, reaching speeds of up to 50 miles per hour. In a pinch they can also swim by tucking their wings in close, spreading their tails and kicking.

Wild turkeys' varied diet also helps them thrive in various habitats like

forests and wetlands. They are omnivores, munching down everything from insects and small amphibians to leaves, roots, tubers, seeds, grains and nuts. Of course, they are also on the menu of lots of animals, including coyotes, bobcats, and even eagles and owls. Snakes, raccoons and opossum love a good wild turkey egg, too. Most wild turkeys only live about two years.

Because they are such coveted dinner fare, wild turkeys form those large flocks you often see. They'll have four to 17

chicks in the spring, and after a few days of care by the individual mother turkeys the hens will start to band together with their chicks for safety. In winter they'll form even larger bands with males, females and first year young. Each band will defend a territory from other bands.

If you'd like to see wild turkeys in the wild, the best time is early in the morning or a couple hours before sunset. They do all of their eating right at the start, and then again at the end of the day before roosting in trees overnight.

Bear Images

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in the Chevron parking lot.
Parking is preferred behind Coffee Heaven.
Join us for cookies, cocoa, bake sale and caroling.
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