And now…

A Thanksgiving Treat:

Mating Behavior of Turkeys

Males are the more ornamented sex.

6 subspecies of wild turkeys

Males vary among the subspecies.

Rio Grandes Turkey

Gould’s Turkey (being re-introduced into Arizona)

Occelated Turkey (Yucatan)

Osceola wild turkey
Mating system is polygynandry.*

* Both males and females have multiple mates.

Why Do Turkeys have Snoods?

Males have snoods, females do not.

Females prefer males with long snoods. Snood length indicates coccidian resistance.

Males more likely to risk stealing food from a small-snood male decoy. Snood length correlated with testosterone levels.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Heritage breeds