

71-03-16

Wisconsin State Game Bird – The Wild Turkey

Archeological evidence has proven that the wild turkey has been hunted in North America since 6,500 BC. That is 4,000 years before the Egyptians built the pyramids.

Wild turkeys were noted in Wisconsin by the Jesuit Claud Jean Alluey as early as 1670. Unregulated market hunting, widespread clearing of woodlands, and infectious diseases from domestic poultry contributed to the total extirpation of the wild turkey in Wisconsin by the late 1800's.

The successful re-introduction of true wild turkeys in 1976 has led to a turkey population of 350,000 at the last population estimate. We now have 130,000 turkey hunters in Wisconsin pursuing hunt-able populations of wild turkeys wherever suitable habitat exists throughout the State. This re-introduction has produced unprecedented recreation and revenue for Wisconsin.

Wild turkeys are very visible to Wisconsin residents.

At present Wisconsin does not have a state symbol designating a State Game Bird.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wisconsin Conservation Congress at its annual meeting in 2016 recommends and works with the Wisconsin State legislature to name the Wild Turkey as the Wisconsin State Game Bird.

Introduced: April 11, 2016 in Winnebago County



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