

CHAMBERS, S. 2009.

Birds of New Zealand - Locality Guide. 3rd edn.

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Wild turkey: pp 132-133.



WILD TURKEY

Family Phasianidae

Species *Meleagris gallopavo*

Common names Turkey, Wild Turkey

Status Introduced

Abundance Common in selected areas

Size 1200 mm (House Sparrow 145 mm, Pheasant 800 mm).

Habitat Farmyards and open country.

New Zealand range Well spread in selected areas in much of the North Island and Marlborough and Canterbury in the South Island.

Description – male

Head and neck Blue and red naked skin. **Upperparts and underparts** Black, faintly barred diagonally with white. **Breast** Loose black feathers hang like a beard.

Description – female

Face Blue naked skin. **Upperparts and underparts** Black but paler than male bird.

Conspicuous features

- Naked head and neck on male bird.
- Beard of feathers on breast.

Conspicuous characteristics

- Unusual ‘gobble gobble gobble’ sound from male bird.

Call ‘Gobble gobble gobble’ sound from male bird.

Nest A bowl in grasses or low vegetation. Up to 15 cream, brown-blotched eggs are laid.

Where to find

North and South Islands – Open countryside.