



FIELD OBSERVATION REPORT

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SIGNS THAT FALL IS ARRIVING



Prime Dessert Woodlands—Rubber Rabbit Brush in bloom.



Apollo Park—Weather is getting colder and these ducks are sleeping in later.



Apollo Park—Birds are migrating to our area like these Canadian Geese.



Apollo Park— Leaves on the trees are turning wonderful colors.



NATIONAL TAKE A HIKE DAY—NOVEMBER 17

In doing research I could not find a founder or the origin of National Take A Hike Day. However, it was during the Victorian years people like Waldon and Thoreau wrote about nature and that inspired the landscape architects to design parks with walking trails. John Muir

walked his way through the Sierra Nevada's in California and wanted hiking and walking trails accessible to every American citizen and that natural areas should be preserved. In 1890 he petitioned for the creation of the National Park System and Yosemite and Sequoia National Park came about. In 1965 the National Trails System was established.



There are over 60,000 miles of trails in the National Trail System across the 50 states so there are plenty of opportunities to take a hike. Hiking is now done through forests, riversides, deserts, and mountains. One of the beauties of these trails is you can walk or hike a short trail or back pack for days. There are several areas here in our desert for hiking, see below:

Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve—15101 West Lancaster Road

Antelope Valley Indian Museum State Historic Park—15701 East Avenue M

Arthur B. Ripley Desert Woodland—Lancaster Road at 210th St. West

Barrel Springs Trail—Sierra Highway and Barrel Springs Road

Devil's Punchbowl Natural Area—28000 Devil's Punchbowl Road—This is closed because of Bobcat Fire

Placerita Canyon Nature Center—in Newhall

Prime Desert Woodland Preserve—43201 35th St West

Red Rock Canyon State Park—northeast of Mojave on Highway 14

Saddleback Butte State Park—17101 East Avenue J, Lake Los Angeles

Tomo-Kahni State Historic Park—Tehachapi Mountains—Available to the public by tours.

Vasquez Rocks Natural Area—10700 West Escondido Canyon Road, Agua Dulce

Hiking is great exercise and time to get away from every day chores and appreciate nature's beauty and wonder.

“EVERYBODY NEEDS BEAUTY AS WELL AS BREAD, PLACES TO PLAY IN AND PRAY IN, WHERE NATURE MAY HEAL AND GIVE STRENGTH TO BODY AND SOUL.” JOHN MUIR



HOW DID TURKEY BECOME THE THANKSGIVING BIRD?

Wild turkeys have been traced back more than 11 million years. They were first domesticated in Mexico around 800 B.C. They were revered in ancient Aztec and Mayan civilizations and had a spiritual connection with their feathers to be used to adorn necklaces, headdresses, jewelry and clothing.

When the pilgrims came to America and celebrated their first Thanksgiving feast they may have had wild turkey but there is no confirmation of this. First accounts were written by William Bradford's journal titled "Of Plymouth Plantation" and the other is a publication written by Edward Winslow titled "Mourt's Relations". There is mention of waterfowl such as ducks and geese as were wild turkeys and other birds. There were also clams, mussels, and other shellfish, lobster and the bay was full of other fish. The Indians supposedly brought deer.

George Washington sent a proclamation to leaders of states, stating that November 26, 1789 would "be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or will be."

In the mid-1800's, in the years before and during the Civil War, the idea of Thanksgiving began to take shape. A woman named Sarah Josepha Hale was a writer and editor of a prominent ladies magazine and she wrote essays and sent letters to government leaders to promote the idea of a unifying national holiday of thanks. Her advocacy for the national holiday began in 1846 and lasted 17 years before she was successful in support of a Thanksgiving holiday. She wrote to presidents Taylor, Fillmore, Pierce, Buchanan and Lincoln. Her initial letters failed to persuade any of the presidents until the letter she wrote to President Lincoln. Sarah convinced Lincoln to support legislation establishing a national holiday of Thanksgiving in 1863. This new national holiday was considered a unifying day after the stress of the Civil War. The only other national holidays celebrated in the United States were Washington's Birthday and Independence Day. President Lincoln signed a proclamation declaring Thanksgiving a national holiday on September 1863. Sarah's efforts earned her the nickname "Mother of Thanksgiving".

During this time there were other American magazines but were mostly reprinted articles from British periodicals. Sarah and other leaders of American editors insisted on publishing American writers. She sometimes personally wrote half of the material published in the Ladies Magazine. Sarah started publishing articles about Thanksgiving dinners with roasted turkey and the two became synonymous.

For those who want to hunt wild turkeys in California you can do so. You will need a turkey hunting license and upland game bird stamp. Legal methods of taking turkeys include shotgun, archery equipment or air rifle. Go to www.espn.com for California Top-20 turkey hunting spots. Wild turkey hunting season in California, see below:

Season / Area		Season Dates	Daily Bag Limit
Fall		Nov 13 - Dec 12	1 either sex
Spring	General	Mar 26 - May 1, 2022	1 bearded
	Archery Only	May 2 - May 15, 2022	
	Additional Junior	Mar 19 - 20, 2022 & May 2 - 15, 2022	

The Legend of the Five Kernels




The first winter the Pilgrims spent in their new home was very cold and bitter. Food was in short supply. Some days they only had enough food for each person to have five kernels of corn for the day. When spring came, they planted food and it grew and grew. The harvest was good the following year and they celebrated Thanksgiving with their Indian friends.

From then on, when they celebrated Thanksgiving, the Pilgrims laid out five kernels of corn on each plate to remind themselves of their blessings.



Let us remember:

-  The 1st kernel reminds us of the autumn beauty all around us.
-  The 2nd kernel reminds us of our love for one another.
-  The 3rd kernel reminds us of God's love and care for us.
-  The 4th kernel reminds us of all our friends, especially our Indian brothers.
-  The 5th kernel reminds us that we are a free people.

