



# OCELLATED TURKEY

*Meleagris ocellata*



The Ocellated Turkey is a relative of the Wild Turkey that is found only in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico and adjacent areas of Central America. Both males and females have a brilliant, iridescent bronze-green plumage. The tail feathers have distinct bright spots similar to those of a peacock. Both sexes have blue heads; the male also has a crown of orange nodules. Males have a long spur on the lower leg that can reach a length of two inches. Unlike the Wild Turkey, neither sex has a beard. Hens lay an average of 12 eggs per clutch. Ocellated Turkeys prefer to run from predators and fly only in short bursts. During evenings they will roost as a group to avoid their primary nocturnal predator,



## SPECIES QUICK FACTS

### SIZE

Ocellated Turkeys have a body length of 28 to 40 inches.

### WEIGHT

Female Ocellated Turkeys weigh between 6 and 8 lbs., while males weigh between 11 and 15 lbs.

### FOOD HABITS

The diet of the Ocellated Turkey consists mostly of seeds, berries, insects and leaves.

### HABITAT

Ocellated Turkeys inhabit tropical deciduous and lowland evergreen forests. They may also be found in clearings and abandoned farmlands.

### GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The Ocellated Turkey is found primarily in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. It can also be found in Belize and Guatemala.

### FUN FACT

The Ocellated Turkey gets its name from the vibrant eye-shaped spot near the end of its tail. The Latin word for eye is “oculus”, forming “ocellated.”