

## Can Turkeys Fly? - By Caryl Davies



Recently I listened to a local radio show that talked about Turkeys flying. I had no idea they actually do! Wild turkeys that is... not domesticated ones. I believe I based my thoughts on watching a TV show in my early years called WKRP in Cincinnati where the head of the radio station created a Thanksgiving advertising stunt to drop turkeys out of a helicopter to a waiting crowd. Unfortunately, no matter what type, turkeys that can fly do so for short distances only. The TV show did not show anything horrific, just the conversation during and after the event. It was hilarious. At my young age I decided turkeys couldn't fly.

Now I find out as an adult that wild turkeys CAN fly. Talk about a brain flip. As soon as I heard about turkeys flying I had to find out more. In literally a matter of seconds I had over 3 million website results on the subject. I've learned about turkey's structural form, muscle mass, takeoff style and the chemical that feeds a turkey's breast during their flight. Incredible!

During this season of thanksgiving, I'm so very appreciative for my family, friends, health, etc. but it's the little daily things we take for granted that I'm also thankful for. Sure, technology can be frustrating at times but I am so grateful to have the opportunity to find out just about anything my inquisitive brain wants to know about. I challenge you all to do some 'out-of-the box' thinking during this time of Thanksgiving for some little 'things' that can really make life wonderful like (these came from a work poll) vacations, our height (short and tall have their advantages), really good salsa, shin guards, shade, bubble wrap, microwaves, pop-up turkey timer, and Sharpies. We are truly blessed to be surrounded by so much to be thankful for! What are you thankful for?

"No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks."  
— James Allen

## Favorite Flora:

### Bulbine frutescens- Stalked Bulbine- By Matt Durham



This month's favorite flora is a succulent native to South Africa. The Stalked Bulbine (*Bulbine frutescens*) consists of 1 foot long thin, fleshy leaves that form clumps 1-2 feet tall and 2-3 feet in width. Stalks rise above the leaves in the spring and fall and are topped with small bunches of yellow flowers. This succulent is evergreen to about 20 degrees Fahrenheit before leaf damage occurs and its underground rhizomes can survive to temperatures as low as 10 degrees. If *Bulbine frutescens* dies back in an extremely cold winter, it will sprout new leaves when temperatures warm in the spring. *Bulbine* prefers full sun or light shade with well-drained soil. It is very drought tolerant, requiring only occasional watering. There are also 2 orange flowered varieties available, *Bulbine frutescens* 'Hallmark' and *Bulbine frutescens* 'Tiny Tangerine' which is slightly smaller than Hallmark and the standard yellow variety.

*Bulbine frutescens* is easily cared for with little pruning or litter. Cut back dead leaves to maintain a neat appearance and remove spent flower stalks to encourage more blooms. This succulent looks great planted in mass or mixed with other succulents of contrasting color. It will do well as a border or in a container and loves the filtered sunlight of many desert trees. Pair with plants such as Compass Barrel Cactus (*Ferocactus cylindraceus*), Gopher plant (*Euphorbia rigida*), and Lavender Cotton (*Santolina chamaecyparissus*) for a landscape full of color.

## Photo of the Month



Cliffs Meet The Sea  
Sorrento, Italy  
Cassi Dawes