

# Domestic Turkey Missing

by Celeste Cook

Last September or October, somebody dumped 5 domestic turkeys on a dead-end road adjacent to Hartwood Acres Park. The neighborhood was amused, concerned and fed them through the winter. They became quite tame, while the neighbors protected them by keeping their dogs inside if the turkeys were around.

During the spring mating season in early March, the two male turkeys had a battle, and the loser left the neighborhood. This is when I met the beautiful slate grey colored friendly turkey while I was walking through Hartwood Acres. He followed me through the trails for about an hour and a half, as I tried to lead him away from the dog park. He had a really cool personality and he would sit on a log next to me and preen, and even took a nap. But I thought that he was a juvenile wild turkey, and was worried that he was so tame- and then went home wondering about him.

I came across the neighborhood soon after (following the sounds of gobbling), and learned the story. The turkeys were making the backyards "messy", and people wanted to let their kids out to play and start gardens- so I called around and found a farm bird sanctuary that would absolutely love to have these beauties. But then one was killed by animals; two additional

birds also left; and we quickly caught the remaining female and took her to the sanctuary. She was named Ladybird or Mrs. Johnson.

The hunt was on! With the help of others in the park, I was led to a male and female pair that had taken to hanging out during the day at houses along Hartwood Trail; after two attempts, these too were captured and are now very happy at the sanctuary. They have been named Ron and Nancy.

But there is that first gregarious male that I met, the beautiful slate gray bird is still missing. It appears that he has left the park and is almost as friendly as a dog. Also, he doesn't know to be afraid of dogs, and is at risk of attack.

If he sees a friendly-looking person, he will walk up and see if they have some food for him. I am hoping that someone will hear about him, and if they cross his path, will feed him to keep him temporarily at their house/yard, and then call me to come catch him and take him to safety. A second farm bird sanctuary has been contacted (so that the males do not continue to battle), and she is absolutely delighted at the prospect of offering him a home.

Any leads or tips are eagerly hoped for. There is a reward for aid and assistance in the capture of this beautiful bird. Please contact me at 412-519-6559 if you have had sightings or if you are interested in helping to locate him.

**MISSING -- REWARD**

**DOMESTIC TURKEY**

